NATION

Climate disasters killed 80,000, hit 1.3B since 1995

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Tata Motors CV makes mkt debut of 28% after demerger

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

Jurel to play in place of Nitish in opening Test vs SA

≫ Page: 8 ≪

www.twitter.com/EnglishSalar
www.facebook.com/EnglishSalar
www.instagram.com/dailysalarenglish
youtube.com/@dailysalardigital

SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

Website: salarnews.in | www.magzter.com | 13 NOVEMBER 2025 | THURSDAY | BENGALURU | 21 JUMADA II, 1447 AH | Vol 4 | Issue No 239 | Pages: 8

'Thithi' fame Gaddappa dies at 89

MYSURU, 12 NOV

Channegowda, popularly known by his screen name Gaddappa, who gained international fame for his role in the acclaimed Kannada film 'Thithi', died on Wednesday at his residence in Nodekoppalu village, Mandya taluk. He was 89. Gaddappa had been suffering from a heart ailment and was recovering from spine surgery. Rising to prominence through Thithi, which won several international awards, he went on to act in eight Kannada films, including 'Tarle Village', 'Johny Mere Naam', 'Halli Panchayati' and others. His last rites were performed at his native village in the presence of his daughter Shobha, relatives and villagers. *—Salar News*

EAM meets US' Rubio, Canada's Anita at G7

OTTAWA, 12 NOV

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand on the sidelines of the G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Canada. Jaishankar said he had a "good meeting" with Rubio, focusing on trade, supply chains, and global issues, including Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific. He also appreciated Rubio's condolences over the Delhi blast. In his talks with Anand, Jaishankar reaffirmed India's intent to rebuild ties under the New Roadmap 2025, discussing trade, energy, and security cooperation. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

B'desh summons Indian envoy over Hasina's statements

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

) Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned India's deputy high commissioner in Dhaka and expressed "serious concern" over deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina's interaction with mainstream Indian media. Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following nationwide violent protests led by students. She fled Bangladesh on 5 August last year and is currently residing in India. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 5

HC seeks DU reply on PM's degree disclosure

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked Delhi University to respond to pleas seeking condonation of delay in filing appeals against an order on the disclosure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's bachelor's degree. The court granted the university three weeks to file its objections and listed the matter for hearing on 16 January, 2026. Four appeals have been filed by RTI activist Neeraj, AAP leader Sanjay Singh, and advocate Mohd Irshad, challenging a single judge's order that set aside the Central Information Commission's (CIC) directive for disclosure. The single judge had ruled that holding public office does not make all personal information public. *—PTI*

Centre calls Delhi blast 'terrorist incident'

Accused had 6 Dec attack plan, red car linked to case seized

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The government on Wednesday termed the Red Fort blast a "terrorist incident", even as investigations revealed that the accused planned an attack to coincide with the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary on 6 December the co-accused had been planning an attack on 26 January - Republic Day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a high-level security meeting at his residence, attended by Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, to assess the situation. Earlier, soon after returning from Bhutan, Modi visited the LNJP Hospital, met survivors.

The explosion on Monday evening ripped through a slow-moving car near the Red Fort, killing 12 people and injuring several others.

PLAN OF 26/ 11 ATTACKS

Officials said the attack bore the hallmarks of a larger plot inspired by the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. The government directed investigating agencies to handle the probe with "utmost urgency and professionalism."

Investigators said Dr Umar Nabi, who was driving the explosives-laden Hyundai i20, and another accused, Dr Muzammil Ganaie, had travelled to Turkiye in 2021, where they met overground workers of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Data retrieved from Muzammil's phone showed multiple reconnaissance visits to the Red Fort area in January, alongside Umar, who was an assistant professor at Al-Falah University.

Officials believe the module had been conspiring since January to carry out multiple coordinated strikes across Delhi, targeting the Red Fort, India Gate, Constitution Club, Gauri Shankar Temple, busy markets, and railway stations, aiming to spark communal tension.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets an injured victim at LNJP hospital following a blast near the Red Fort in New Delhi *PHOTO: PTI*

FORENSIC EVIDENCE COLLECTED

The Delhi Police FIR describes the incident as a "bomb blast." Forensic experts have collected around 40 samples, including cartridges, live ammunition, and explosive residues, to match them with materials recovered during earlier raids. Preliminary tests indicate the use of ammonium nitrate.

Around 2,500 kg of ammonium nitrate, potassium chlorate, and sulphur were seized from multiple locations across Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Police said the terror group had prepared nearly 200 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) as part of the plot.

Investigators also traced and seized a red Ford EcoSport in Faridabad's Khandawali village, registered in Umar Nabi's name, and suspected to have been used for reconnaissance. They found that 12 days before the blast, the Hyundai i20 had obtained a pollution certificate, likely to avoid scrutiny, and was parked inside a Faridabad college before being driven to Delhi. Under the scanner, Al-Falah University clarified it had only a professional association with the two doctors arrested and expressed anguish over the developments.

Officials said the plot, uncovered after the arrests of eight people linked to proscribed outfits JeM and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, highlighted the growing use of educated "white-collar" operatives to mask terror activities. Several accused doctors from Pulwama, Shopian, and Anantnag had taken up posts in Haryana to maintain a legitimate cover while coordinating logistics for the planned attacks. *—PTI*

>>>More on Pgs 2, 3 & 5

Car dealer who sold i20 detained, techie held for terror links

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Delhi Police's Special Cell has detained a Faridabad-based car dealer in connection with the Red Fort blast case, which killed 12 people on Monday.

Amit, owner of Royal Car Plaza, was picked up from his Sector 37 office with the help of Faridabad Police. Sources said he facilitated the sale of the Hyundai i20 that exploded near the Red Fort and is now being questioned to trace the vehicle's chain of ownership and how it reached the accused, Dr Umar Nabi, who was allegedly driving it.

Police are examining transaction records, CCTV footage, and possible intermediaries involved in the deal.

In a related development, Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) conducted searches in Thane and Pune following the arrest of Pune-based software engineer **Zubair Hangargekar** for alleged links with Al Qaeda and Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent. Though officials clarified the searches were unrelated to the Delhi blast, they are examining possible Maharashtra links.

Haryana preacher detained

Jammu and Kashmir Police detained Maulvi Ishtiyaq, a preacher from Haryana's Mewat, in connection with the Faridabad-based 'white-collar' terror module. Over 2,500 kg of explosives were earlier recovered from his rented house at Al-Falah University. He is the ninth person to be held in the case.

J&K raids 500 JeI-linked locations

Meanwhile, police in Jammu and Kashmir raided over 300 locations linked to banned outfit Jamaat-e-Islami across Kulgam, Pulwama, Shopian, Baramulla, and Ganderbal, seizing incriminating material and detaining several suspects as part of an ongoing crackdown on terror network. *—PTI*

WHY DO TERROR ATTACKS HAPPEN DURING POLLS: CM

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday questioned the "reason for terrorist attacks in the country during elections," drawing sharp criticism from the BJP.

Posting on X, Siddaramaiah asked why such incidents occur during polls, referring to the Delhi blast that happened a day before voting in Bihar's final phase. Speaking in Mysuru earlier, he said, "There should be no bomb blasts in the country. Innocent people have died. It needs to be looked into."

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra condemned the remarks as "irresponsible, insensitive, and low-level politics," alleging they reflect the Congress's "anti-national legacy." He demanded Siddaramaiah withdraw his statement, adding that people will give a "befitting reply" to the Congress. *—PTI*

'US NEEDS TALENT'

Trump softens stance on H1B visas

WASHINGTON DC, 12 NOV

US President Donald Trump has softened his stance on H-1B visa reforms, acknowledging the need to attract specialised foreign talent to sustain America's industrial and technological edge.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump said the US could not rely on its long-term unemployed workforce to fill complex roles in manufacturing and defence without extensive training. "No, you don't [have enough talent]. There are certain skills you don't have, and people have to learn them. You can't take people off the unemployment line and put them into a factory making missiles," he said. He cited an example from Georgia, where the removal of skilled South Korean workers disrupted battery manufacturing. He referred to the September raids by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement at an under-construction Hyundai plant, where hundreds of South Korean specialists were deported. "Making batteries is very complicated and dangerous, a lot of explosions, a lot of problems," he noted. Trump's remarks contrast with his earlier hardline position on foreign worker visas. In September, he signed a proclamation triggering steep increase in the application fee to USD 1,00,000 from about USD 1,500. *—ANI*

B'luru man held for sexually harassing disabled woman

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

A 35-year-old man was arrested here for allegedly sexually harassing a 21-year-old differently-abled woman at her residence under Adugodi police station limits, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident took place on 10 November when the accused, reportedly under the influence of narcotics, broke into the woman's house and allegedly harassed her. When her mother returned home after attending a function, she found her daughter visibly shaken and the man hiding behind a door. She raised an alarm, prompting neighbours to catch hold of the accused, thrash him, and hand him over to police, a senior officer said. Police have registered a case under Sections 75 (sexual harassment), 76 (assault or use of criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), and 333 (house trespass) of the BNS. *—ANI*

HC lifts stay on Dharmasthala probe

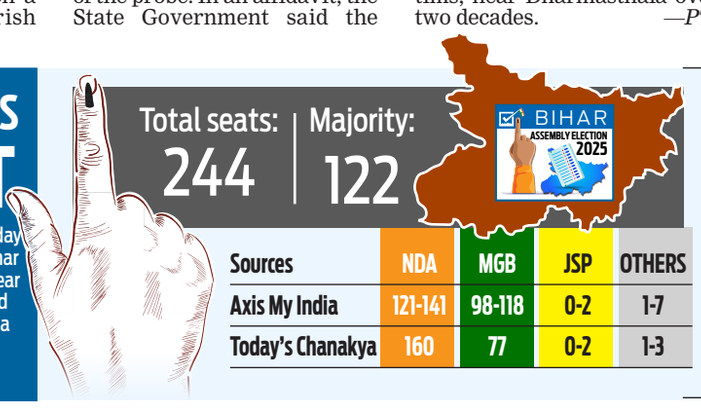
BENGALURU, 12 NOV

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday lifted its stay on the probe into the Dharmasthala FIR alleging multiple murders, rapes and illegal burials in the temple town of Dakshina Kannada district.

Justice Mohammad Nawaz, while vacating the 30 October interim order, directed the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to ensure activists are not harassed during the probe. The stay was granted earlier on a plea by activists Girish Mattannavar, Mahesh Shetty Thimarody, T Jayant and Vittala Gowda, who had initially supported filing the same FIR but later sought its quashing. The SIT had issued Section 35(3) notices of the Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita to the four activists. Senior advocate S Balan, representing Mattannavar, argued they did not oppose investigation but feared arrest.

Opposing the plea, the SIT said new evidence had surfaced, justifying continuation of the probe. In an affidavit, the State Government said the SIT's mandate extended beyond the initial complaint and covered alleged illegal burials over several years.

It cited the recovery of human skulls and skeletal remains at Banglegudde as evidence of "independent dimensions" to the case. The government assured that activists would not be arrested if they cooperated. The case arose after complainant and whistleblower, later arrested for perjury, claimed to have buried bodies, including sexual assault victims, near Dharmasthala over two decades. *—PTI*


THE EXIT POLLS
VERDICT
Two fresh exit polls on Wednesday pointed to an NDA victory in Bihar with Axis My India showing a clear edge for the ruling alliance and Today's Chanakya forecasting a big win for it over the Mahagathbandhan.
Total seats: 244
Majority: 122
BIHAR ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2025
Sources | NDA | MGB | JSP | OTHERS
Axis My India | 121-141 | 98-118 | 0-2 | 1-7
Today's Chanakya | 160 | 77 | 0-2 | 1-3

'CASE OF MISBRANDING'

HC bars firm from selling 'ORS' beverages

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant any time to a company to dispose off its existing stock of electrolyte beverages being sold under the name ORSL, which has been banned by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to be labelled as oral rehydration salts (ORS).

The court told the petitioner company JNTL Consumer Health India Pvt Ltd that it was a case of misbranding and it cannot allow such products to remain in market as the matter relates to public health concern.

The court said the difficulty is that in rural areas, if some child is suffering from diarrhoea, ordinarily, they buy ORS to balance electrolytes.

"In your product, you are also writing electrolytes; there is a possibility of misleading. It is is harmful to those who are unfit to take it," it said.

It also said that ORS has brought a revolution to a poor country like ours and the rate of deaths of children has gone down in these areas.

The court issued notice to the Centre and the (FSSAI) on the main petition challenging the Authority's orders by which it has withdrawn permissions for food-and-beverage companies to use the word 'ORS' in their labelling unless they met the standard medical formulation.

- The court said the difficulty is that in rural areas, if some child is suffering from diarrhoea, ordinarily, they buy ORS to balance electrolytes.

The petitioner's counsel submitted that the company was selling these products for the last 20 years, and the name was registered with the Controller of Patents, GIs and Trademarks.

He urged the court to grant permission to liquidate the existing stocks. *—PTI*

Centre asks states to set up pollution clinics

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The Centre has issued an updated advisory to all states and Union territories to strengthen response mechanisms against air pollution-related diseases under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH).

States have been directed to ensure the functioning of chest clinics in government health facilities and medical colleges, especially during the peak pollution months from September to March. These clinics must operate for at least two hours daily and can be set up at community health centres, district hospitals, and medical colleges in urban areas under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The clinics will screen patients for risk factors, confirm diagnoses, and provide treatment and long-term care for respiratory and cardiac ailments aggravated by pollution. Health facilities have been asked to maintain patient records, train staff, promote behavioural changes, and ensure adequate infrastructure.

The advisory also urged strict monitoring of Air Quality Index (AQI) levels and immediate mitigation of pollution sources such as waste burning and construction dust. It directed that construction workers be provided protective masks and schools limit outdoor activities on days of high pollution. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Tiger kills temple bull near Bandipur reserve in HD Kote

MYSURU, 12 NOV

A tiger killed a bull belonging to a local temple in N Belathur, a forest-fringe village near Bandipur Tiger Reserve in HD Kote taluk, on Tuesday night. The half-eaten carcass was found in a nearby field on Wednesday morning, shocking villagers. Panic spread across the area as residents alerted forest officials. Forest department personnel rushed to the spot and urged villagers to remain indoors after 6pm until the tiger is captured. *—Salar News*

Kannada students asked to take up banking exams

MYSURU, 12 NOV

State Bank of India Chief Manager Kalyanakumar on Wednesday urged Kannada-speaking students to actively take up banking recruitment exams, highlighting the sector's vast job opportunities and transparency. He was speaking after inaugurating a 50-day coaching programme for banking and other competitive exams at the Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) Competitive Exams Coaching Centre in Mysuru. He said the banking sector in India is "completely free from corruption" and offers attractive salaries, incentives, and benefits. He encouraged aspirants to overcome the misconception that banking exams are difficult, and to prepare through coaching and systematic study after graduation. He noted that most recruits currently come from North India, with few Kannadigas appearing for these exams. *—Salar News*

Woman govt employee assaulted in Yadgir

YADGIR, 12 NOV

A government employee sustained grievous injuries after she was brutally attacked by assailants on Chittapur Road in Yadgir on Wednesday morning. The victim identified as Anjali Girish Kambanoor, an employee in the Department of Social Welfare, was attacked by assailants with sharp while on her way to the office in her car. After the attack her driver rushed her to the YIMS Hospital, from where she was later shifted to Kalaburagi for advanced treatment. Her condition is said to be critical. The police probe is on and have registered a case. A manhunt is on to nab the culprits. Prior enmity was suspected to be the reason for attack. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: SALAR

MLA Kandakur to not avail govt allowance

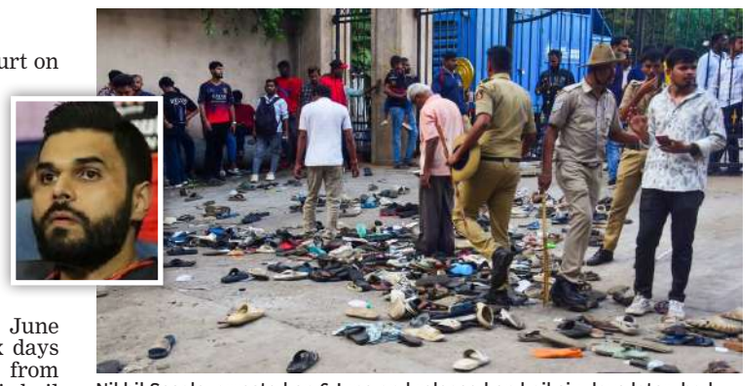
YADGIR, 12 NOV

Gurmitkal MLA and JD(S) legislator Sharangouda Kandakur has written a letter to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, stating that he has decided not to accept any kind of allowance during the upcoming winter session of the Assembly in Belagavi. He said that he will not avail of the travel allowance, daily allowance, accommodation and food provided by the government while attending the session. He pointed out that the Belagavi session costs the government exchequer around Rs 30 crore every year. However, it has failed to bring tangible benefit to the people of North and Kalyana Karnataka. The government has also not informed the public about the decisions taken during previous sessions. *—Salar News*

Karnataka HC eases travel curbs on RCB executive

Sosale argues that his profession requires frequent travel

BENGALURU, 12 NOV



Nikhil Sosale, arrested on 6 June and released on bail six days later, had been barred from leaving the City under his bail conditions *PHOTO: PTI*

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday eased travel restrictions imposed on **Nikhil Sosale**, Marketing Head of Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB), who is among the accused in the Chinnaswamy Stadium stampede case.

Sosale, arrested on 6 June and released on bail six days later, had been barred from leaving the City under his bail conditions. Seeking modification, he moved the court arguing that his professional duties required frequent travel across India.

After reviewing the case records, the bench observed that Sosale's role involved nationwide responsibilities and that he had undertaken to keep the investigating officer informed of his movements. Accepting this assurance, the court deemed it appropriate to grant relief.

"It is expedient to allow the application. The condition is relaxed subject to the petitioner informing the investigating officer before leaving and after returning to the city," the order stated.

Senior advocate Sandesh J Chouta, appearing for Nikhil Sosale, noted that similar restrictions on co-accused from M/s DNA Entertainment Networks Pvt Ltd and the State Cricket Association had already been lifted through separate petitions.

However, the court clarified that the requirement for Sosale to surrender his passport remains unchanged, thereby preventing any overseas travel.

The case pertains to a stampede that broke out on 4 June outside City's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, where massive crowds had gathered to join celebrations marking Royal Challengers City's maiden IPL title. A total of 11 people were killed and several sustained injuries in the chaos, which officials said was triggered by mismanagement during entry at the venue.

The incident led to widespread criticism of event organisers, prompting the police to book multiple individuals and entities associated with the event, including Sosale and the event management firm. *—PTI*

The exercise was held under tight security at the Horticulture University campus on the outskirts of Kolar *PHOTO: SALAR*

'Recounting in Malur done, no change in results'

KOLAR, 12 NOV

The recounting of votes for the Malur Assembly constituency in Kolar district, conducted on Tuesday as per Supreme Court directions, concluded smoothly with no change in the results, Congress MLA KY Nanje Gowda said.

Speaking to reporters after the process, Nanje Gowda said his stand had been vindicated, adding that the recounting was conducted in accordance with constitutional provisions and that all objections were addressed properly.

The recounting was ordered by the Supreme Court following a petition filed by KS Manjunatha Gowda of the BJP, who had lost to Nanje Gowda by a narrow margin of 248 votes in the 2023 Assembly elections.

The exercise was held under tight security at the Horticulture University campus on the outskirts of Kolar, under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer Ravi MR, along with Superintendent of Police B Nikhil. Both Nanje Gowda and petitioner Manjunatha Gowda, as well as independent candidate Hoodi Vijayakumar, were present.

Only authorised polling agents were permitted inside the counting centre, and the use of electronic devices was strictly prohibited. Prohibitory orders were also enforced around the venue until Wednesday morning.

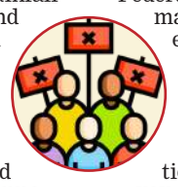
The district administration will now submit the recounting report to the Supreme Court in a sealed cover. *— Salar News*

Haveri farmers' protest over sugarcane price continues

HAVERI/MUDHOL, 12 NOV

Protests by sugarcane farmers demanding fair prices continued for the second day on Tuesday in Haveri and Mudhol, Bagalkot district. Farmers in Haveri demanded that the government ensure the officially fixed rate of Rs 3,300 per tonne, while those in Mudhol sought Rs 3,500 per tonne.

Former State chief minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai said farmers in Haveri were facing severe distress as continuous rainfall had destroyed maize and soybean crops, and sugarcane growers were not getting the declared price. He urged the district administration to enforce the state-fixed rate of Rs 3,300 per tonne for sugar factories.



Bommai also demanded that the State government direct the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) to procure maize directly from farmers, noting that the state produces around 54 lakh metric tonnes of maize across 17 lakh hectares.

He alleged irregularities in the crop loss survey and said compensation was yet to reach affected farmers. "The government must conduct a resurvey where complaints have been raised and immediately announce crop loss relief," he said.

Bommai added that he had discussed the issue of sugarcane prices with district officials and urged the Sugar Minister to intervene swiftly to resolve the matter, saying the current MSP of Rs 2,400 per quintal was inadequate. *—Salar News*

MAN HELD FOR HACKING ACTOR UPENDRA & WIFE'S PHONE

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

The City Police have arrested a cybercriminal from Bihar for allegedly hacking the mobile phones of Kannada actor Upendra and his wife, actress Priyanka Upendra, and duping their contacts through WhatsApp impersonation, officials said.

The accused, Vikas Kumar, was traced to Dashrathpur village in Bihar and brought here after an interstate operation by the Central Division Cyber Crime Unit.

The incident occurred on 15 September when Priyanka, after placing an online order, received a phishing link that granted hackers remote access to her WhatsApp account. Soon after, several of her contacts received fake messages seeking urgent fund transfers of Rs 55,000 each.

Unaware of the fraud, a few acquaintances, including the couple's son, transferred money, resulting in a total loss of nearly Rs 1.5 lakh.

When calls to Priyanka went unanswered, suspicion arose, prompting the couple to file a complaint at Sadashivanagar Police Station.

Investigators later found that both Upendra and Priyanka's phones had been compromised.

Priyanka Upendra; Upendra *PHOTO: FB*

Following a digital trail, police traced the crime to Dashrathpur village, which they described as a hub for cyber scams. Officers found dozens of youths, mostly aged 20–25, involved in similar online frauds targeting victims nationwide.

Vikas Kumar was identified as one of the key perpetrators, arrested, and brought to Bengaluru for interrogation. Police said the operation exposed a broader cyber network linked to multiple digital fraud cases.

He remains in custody as the probe continues to trace his associates. *—PTI*

Kharge calls Delhi blast 'failure of BJP govt'

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Congress President **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Wednesday termed the blast in Delhi as a "failure of the government" and demanded that the perpetrators of the terrorist act be given exemplary punishment so that it acts as a deterrent.

It was unfortunate that such an incident happened in the national capital where top agencies, that are tasked with ensuring security, including the Intelligence Bureau functioned, he said.

Despite the presence of all such agencies in Delhi, the government has failed, Kharge alleged and added that his party would wait for a complete report.

Speaking to reporters, Kharge said that the Congress party has sought an impartial probe into the blast and demanded that the government ensure stringent punishment to those who were behind it.

"The culprits must be punished severely so that others should be afraid of doing it," he said adding his party would raise the issue in the Parliament next month, during the winter session. *—PTI*

DEAL IN BHUTAN THAT WILL HELP TATA, ADANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flew to Bhutan on Tuesday, even as a major blast rocked Delhi, to strengthen bilateral energy ties. He announced a Rs 4,000 crore ($455 million) line of credit for new energy projects and jointly inaugurated the 1,020-MW Punatsangchhu-II hydroelectric plant with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck. Indian firms Tata Power, Adani Group and Reliance Power also signed agreements with Bhutan's Druk Green Power Corporation to develop additional hydropower projects.

> **Why did PM Modi fly away to Bhutan in middle of a terror crisis in Delhi? The answer is simple. He had to attend to his first duty, which was to secure a deal for his dear friend Adani**
>
> —Priyank Kharge, Minister

GADKARI APPROVED TUNNEL ROAD: DKS

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar today lashed out at the Opposition BJP, calling it a party which is opposed to Karnataka's development.

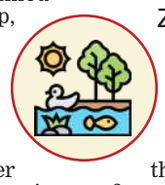
Speaking to reporters at Vidhana Soudha, he said, "Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has praised the tunnel project in Bengaluru. Bengaluru's topography is rocky and hence we decided to have underground metro line in the past. No one spoke against tunnels when metro was made. The tunnel road project is a project for the posterity.

Tender process for the tunnel project will end in a couple of days and we will know how many have bid." *—Salar News*

K'taka plans for 'Quantum Ecosystem Map'

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

- The initiative follows Boseraju's visit to Switzerland, where he attended the Swissnex Quantum and GESDA conferences and met researchers from ETH Zurich and CERN



Karnataka Science and Technology Minister NS Boseraju on Wednesday directed officials to create a 'Karnataka Quantum Ecosystem Map,' modelled on Switzerland's acclaimed Swissnex Quantum Map, which showcases global quantum science and innovation hubs.

Chairing a meeting with Swissnex India CEO and Consul General Angela Honegger at Vikas Soudha, Boseraju said the map would compile a comprehensive database of all institutions, startups, and industries active in the State's quantum technology sector.

The initiative follows Boseraju's visit to Switzerland, where he attended the Swissnex Quantum and GESDA conferences and met researchers from ETH Zurich and CERN to explore collaborations in quantum innovation.

Honegger welcomed the plan. A similar platform, she noted, could strengthen India–Switzerland partnerships in emerging technologies. The meeting also proposed a Karnataka–Swissnex Joint Desk to serve as a single-window platform for joint research, startup facilitation, and policy alignment in quantum computing, AI, and sustainable innovation. *—PTI*

Russian trade team meets Priyank for tech pact

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

A high-level Russian trade delegation met Karnataka IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge on Wednesday to explore technology partnerships ahead of the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025, officials said.

Led by Oxana Agafonova, Attaché for IT and Electronics at the Russian Trade Commission, the delegation included senior officials and representatives from leading Russian tech firms.

Discussions focused on cooperation in Electronic Design Automation (EDA), Smart City Technologies, and Digital Engineering Solutions.

Agafonova, known for her expertise in smart city innovation, AI, and digital transformation, has been linking Russian IT companies with India's digital ecosystem.

Kharge said Karnataka welcomed collaboration in Artificial Intelligence-based analytics, digital infrastructure, advanced electronics,

and EDA software, highlighting prospects for joint research, product development, and technology exchange.

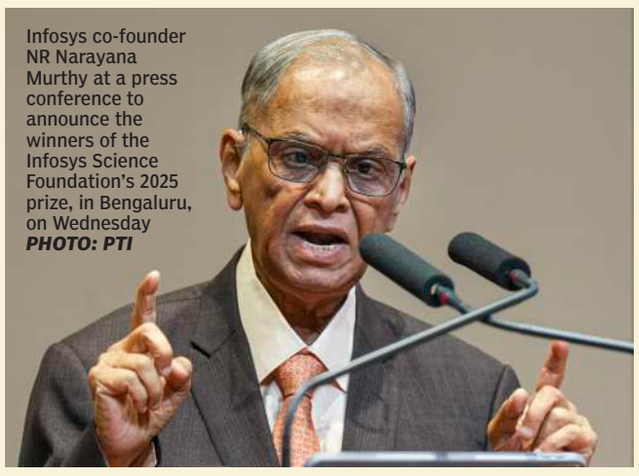
The Bengaluru Tech Summit, organised by the Department of Electronics, IT and BT, will be held from 18 to 20 November.

Minister Kharge added that through the Global Innovation Alliance (GIA), the State would assist Russian firms in partnering with Karnataka's startups, industries, and research institutions.

The mission was coordinated by the Russian Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Moscow Export Center, with support from the Government of Moscow. *—PTI*

INFOSYS PRIZE 2025

Research is only path to a better India: Narayana Murthy



Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy at a press conference to announce the winners of the Infosys Science Foundation's 2025 prize, in Bengaluru, on Wednesday *PHOTO: PTI*

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

IT industry veteran Nagavara Ramarao Narayana Murthy on Wednesday stressed that strengthening India's focus on research is the only way to build a better India and a better world.

He urged the creation of an aspirational, meritocratic and competitive research ecosystem that nurtures scientists, engineers, economists, mathematicians and humanists.

Speaking at the announcement of the Infosys Prize 2025, Murthy quoted Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, saying research represents "the broadening of the mind" that helps unravel the mysteries of nature and find "plausibly impossible solutions".

> Research in universities, laboratories, libraries and companies is born from such curiosity, imagination, questioning, daring and humility. Research effort needs audacity, daring, unbridled imagination and ability not to be cowed down by failures
>
> - Narayan Murthy, Co-founder, Infosys

He said curiosity, imagination and persistence form the bedrock of discovery, adding that research requires "audacity, daring and the humility to learn from failures".

Meanwhile, the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2025, one of India's top research honours, which carries a gold medal, a citation and a purse of USD 100,000.

Among the six laureates are Andrew Ollett, Associate Professor at the University of Chicago and the world's foremost scholar of the Prakrit languages, and Anjana Badrinarayanan, Associate Professor at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru, recognised for her pioneering work on genome maintenance and repair.

Other winners include Nikhil Agarwal (Economics), Sushant Sachdeva (Engineering and Computer Science), Sabyasachi Mukherjee (Mathematical Sciences) and Karthish Manthiram (Physical Sciences).

Murthy said India must recommit to nurturing a research culture that values ideas over titles, adding, "Research is the only means to fulfil the dreams of our founding fathers." *—PTI*

WB police seize 20,000 gelatin sticks, arrest one

SURI, 12 NOV

Police in West Bengal's Birbhum district have seized around 20,000 gelatin sticks and arrested one person, officials confirmed. The explosives, packed in 50 bags, were recovered from a pick-up van coming from Pakur in neighboring Jharkhand during a vehicle check on the Sultanpur–Nalhati Road on Tuesday night.

According to police, the explosives were being procured and transported illegally. A case has been registered, and the arrested individual remains in custody as investigations continue. Coordination with Pakur Police is underway to trace the source and possible network involved. Following the seizure, security checks and surveillance have been intensified across sensitive areas in West Bengal to prevent any potential threat. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Kamal Haasan's MNM petitions EC for fresh symbol

CHENNAI, 12 NOV

The Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM), led by actor-politician Kamal Haasan and a key ally of Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK, has applied to the Election Commission of India for a common election symbol ahead of the 2026 state assembly elections. A party delegation met officials at the Commission's office in New Delhi and submitted a request along with a preferred list of ten symbols. In the 2021 assembly polls, the MNM contested under the 'battery torch' symbol allotted by the Commission. The party said the move seeks to ensure uniformity and easy voter recognition as it prepares to field candidates across the state in alliance with the DMK for the forthcoming elections. —*PTI*

PMK to contest under Mango symbol: Anbumani

CHENNAI, 12 NOV

PMK leader Dr Anbumani Ramadoss on Wednesday asserted that the Election Commission has recognised his leadership, confirming the party will contest the upcoming Assembly polls under the Mango symbol. His statement follows reports that PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss, his father, had also staked claim to the symbol amid an on-going leadership tussle. Addressing party cadres near Chennai, Anbumani urged them to strengthen the organisation through the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Referring to his Nadai Payanam (foot march), he said people were unhappy with the ruling DMK. Later, he accused the DMK of "diversionary politics" over its protest on the SIR exercise and neglecting farmers affected by recent heavy rains. —*PTI*

BJP orders 501 kg laddoos ahead of Bihar results

PATNA, 12 NOV

Confident of victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has ordered 501 kg of laddoos ahead of vote counting on Friday. Polling was held on 6 and 11 November, recording Bihar's highest-ever voter turnout of 66.91 per cent. Encouraged by exit polls predicting a clear mandate for the NDA, BJP worker Krishna Kumar Kallu said, "On counting day, the NDA will celebrate Holi, Dussehra, Diwali and Eid together." A Patna sweet maker confirmed that 501 kg of laddoos would be delivered on 14 November for distribution as prasad. However, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav rejected the exit polls, calling them politically influenced by the BJP's top leadership. —*PTI*

J&K cops raid 500 terrorist-linked places

7 of 8 arrested white collared terrorists were from J&K: Al Falah varsity distances itself

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR, 12 NOV

Police on Wednesday intensified its crackdown on the terror ecosystem in Kashmir, carrying out raids at around 500 locations linked to terrorist associates, and persons affiliated with banned organisations, including Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), in the valley, officials said.

The raids come in response to the Red Fort terror blast, which had killed 12 people and injured dozens of others.

Police have arrested eight white collar terrorist, seven of whom are from Kashmir. They are Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid from Nowgam in Srinagar; Maulvi Irfan Ahmad from Shopian; Zameer Ahmad Ahanger alias Mutlasha from Wakura area of Ganderbal; Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie alias Musaib from Koil area of Pulwama, and Dr Adeel from Wanpora area of Kulgam.

Dr Shaheen Sayeed is from Lucknow.

The raids on Wednesday were based on credible intelligence inputs indicating attempts by JeI-linked elements to revive their activities under different fronts, police officials said.

They said the raids were carried out at several locations across the 10 districts of the Kashmir valley -- Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian.

The searches were carried out at the residences and premises of JeI members and their associates.

They added the crackdown is a part of sustained efforts to dismantle the terror ecosystem and its support structure at the grassroots level.

The searches were carried out at the residences of terrorist associates and overground workers (OGWs) affiliated with proscribed terrorist organizations, in connection with ongoing investigations under the UAPA, the police officials said. Several suspects have been detained for questioning.

Meanwhile, the Al Falah University on Wednesday said it had no connection with the two arrested doctors and key suspects in the Delhi blast, apart from the work they did in their official capacity.

A statement from the vice-chancellor of the Faridabad-based private university, Dr Bhupinder Kaur Anand, said, "We are deeply saddened and anguished by the unfortunate developments. Our thoughts and prayers are with all the innocent people affected by these distressing events."

It noted that the two doctors associated with the university have been detained by the investigating agencies, and said, "We wish to make it clear that the university has no connection with the said persons apart from them being working in their official capacities with the university."

Dr Umar Nabi who was allegedly driving the explosives-laden car and his associate, Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie alias Musaib, who taught at Al Falah University were the two doctors referenced. Dr Umar is believed to have panicked after Muzammil was arrested with large quantities of explosives. —*PTI*

Police personnel raid a house in Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday PHOTO: PTI

COPS PROBE SUSPECT'S 3-HOUR STAY AT MOSQUE PRIOR TO BLAST

Accused Dr Umar Nabi had visited a mosque near the Ram Leela Maidan and had parked the vehicle at the Sunehri Masjid parking lot around 3.19pm, the officer said. Before that, Nabi had gone to a mosque on Asaf Ali Road, close to Ram Leela Maidan, where he allegedly stayed for nearly three hours and offered namaz. Investigators are also examining what Umar did during his three-hour halt at the parking lot before he moved towards the Red Fort. "He was constantly tracking updates about those arrested in the Faridabad module. We are also trying to verify if he was communicating with his handlers using a signal phone," another officer said. The officer added that forensic experts are analysing exhibits to detect fragments of a possible signal device that may have been used to stay in touch with handlers. —*PTI*

Security personnel cordon off an area near Red Fort, in New Delhi. PHOTO: PTI

'WERE RADICALISED IN TURKEY'

Arrested Dr Muzammil Ganaie and the alleged car driveer Dr Umar Nabi had travelled to Turkey in 2021. Sources say that they were dramatic transformed and

radicalised during the trip. Umar is believed to have transformed significantly It is believed the two met overground workers of the banned JeM during the trip. —*PTI*

CRITICALLY INJURED, 2 FIGHT FOR LIFE

Two people who were among the injured in Monday's Red Fort car explosion that shook central Delhi are battling for their lives in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital. A senior hospital official said on Wednesday that a total of 27 people have sustained injuries in the explosion. Of the injured, three are in the ICU, with two reported to be critical. Three patients have taken Leave Against Medical Advice (LAMA). —*PTI*

IGI AIRPORT GETS BOMB SCARE

The Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport received a bomb threat on Wednesday afternoon, which was later declared a hoax, a Delhi Fire Services official said. Three fire tenders were dispatched to the airport after a call regarding a suspected bomb planted at the Terminal-3 was received around 3.18pm, the official said. "After a thorough investigation and checking, it was confirmed that the threat was a hoax." -*PTI*

Arrested doc recced Red Fort many times in Jan

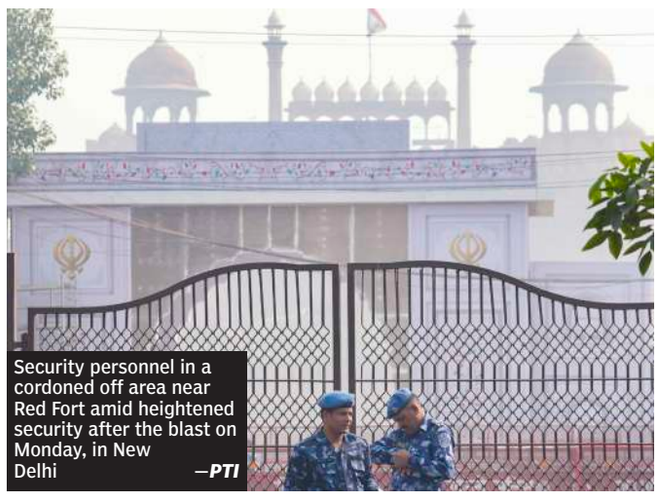
NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

An analysis of dump data retrieved from the mobile phone of Dr Muzammil Ganaie, who was arrested after police busted a white-collar terror module recently, showed that he conducted multiple reconnaissances of the Red Fort area in January this year, officials said.

Around 2,500 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, potassium chlorate and sulphur were seized after police busted the terror module with links to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, spanning across Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

According to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) that collected around 40 samples from the blast site. Preliminary analysis suggested that one of the explosive samples is ammonium nitrate.

Dr Umar Nabi and Dr Muzammil visited the Red Fort multiple times to study the security arrangements and crowd density patterns. —*PTI*



Security personnel in a cordoned off area near Red Fort amid heightened security after the blast on Monday, in New Delhi —*PTI*

Police vehicle leave from the Al-Falah University, in Faridabad, Haryana, where many of the arrested doctors had studied or worked. The university has sought to distance itself from the individuals; Police perform search at Prayagraj Junction as security was beefed up in Uttar Pradesh PHOTO: PTI

Guj ATS searches ricin terror schemer Dr Saiyed's Hyd home

HYDERABAD, 12 NOV

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad, probing the alleged Ricin chemical poison terror plot, conducted searches at the house of arrested doctor Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed in Hyderabad.

Similar searches were conducted at the houses of two other arrested accused in Uttar Pradesh. However, nothing incriminating has been found, the official said, adding that no link has been established between Dr Saiyed and the Delhi blast. —*PTI*

She never wore a burqa: Ex-hubby

LUCKNOW/KANPUR, 12 NOV

The family of arrested doctor Shaheen Sayeed, accused of links to a terror module behind the Delhi blast, expressed disbelief over the allegations, while her former husband said she "never wore a burqa" and was devoted to her children.

Shaheen's brother Mohammad Shoaib said police and Anti-Terrorist Squad officials visited their Lucknow home but treated them respectfully. "There was no pressure or harshness. We haven't spoken in four years, yet I cannot believe these allegations," he told PTI Videos.

Her ex-husband Dr Zafar Hayat, questioned by the Kanpur Crime Branch, said their marriage ended in 2012 and that she was "a caring, family-oriented person". He said Shaheen had once discussed moving abroad for better opportunities but "never showed extremist tendencies".

Kanpur Police Commissioner Raghubir Lal said Hayat's questioning yielded no grounds for legal action. Investigators are probing Shaheen's alleged links with Dr Muzammil Ganaie of Al-Falah University, reportedly part of a "white-collar terror module" with ties to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind. —*PTI*

- Arrested doctor Shaheen Sayeed's ex husband said she was a family person who wanted to move abroad. He said she never wore a burqa or showed extremist tendencies

NDA: WOMEN VOTED FOR US

Exit polls were made at BJP's direction, says Tejashwi

PATNA, 12 NOV

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on Wednesday dismissed the exit poll predictions that the NDA would return to power in Bihar, claiming that such forecasts were made at the "direction" of the BJP's top leadership.

He also exuded confidence that the opposition INDIA bloc will form the government in the state.

The exit polls conducted by various organisations predicted a return of the NDA government in the state, a poor show for the Opposition 'Mahagathbandhan' (INDIA bloc in local parlance), and a disappointing performance for former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party.

He also reiterated that "around 72 lakh additional voters cast their votes to change the ruling government in Bihar".

RJD leader and Leader of Opposition in Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav addresses a press conference, in Patna PHOTO: PTI

Yadav also claimed that BJP leaders would try to delay the counting process, which would not be allowed. The counting of votes will take place on 14 November.

In the first phase, on 6 November, a "record" 65.09 per cent of 3.75 crore electors had cast their vote across 121 constituencies. Bihar witnessed a record-breaking turnout of nearly 69 per cent in the final phase of the Assembly polls on 11 November. The state also recorded the highest female voter turnout in its history at 74.03 per cent.

Congress' media and publicity chairman Pawan Khera, whose party is the second largest constituent of the INDIA bloc in Bihar, believes that the high turnout was proof that people have voted for a change.

Meanwhile, the BJP said the high turnout of women voters in the polls was a "historic transformation" and claimed that they voted "decisively" in favour of the NDA for development and good governance.

BJP national spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said the Bihar polls have been the "most gender-inclusive" election since Independence. The "new political grammar" of Bihar is "gender + governance". —*PTI*

EVMS KEPT UNDER TIGHT SECURITY AHEAD OF COUNTING

Electronic voting machines (EVMs) and VVPATs were kept under tight, two-tier security cover in strong rooms, the ECI said on Wednesday. All district election officers and returning officers of the assembly constituencies concerned have been directed to inspect the strong rooms daily, the statement said. A control room has also been set up within every strong room campus, where senior officials will be on duty.

Man dies 2 years post-accident; Family gets Rs 31L

THANE, 12 NOV

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Thane has awarded a compensation of Rs 31 lakh to the family of a carpenter who died in 2020 from injuries suffered when a car hit him and other people in 2018. MACT member RV Mohite, in the judgment held the offending car's driver negligent and directed both its owner and insurer to pay the amount. The tribunal rejected the defence argument that the accident was caused by a technical fault or the deceased was negligent. The victim's wife will get Rs 10,05,235, with Rs 3 lakh in fixed deposit, Rs 2 lakh each to each parent and Rs 8.5 lakh each to two sons. *—PTI*

PHOTO: INSTAGRAM

Govinda released after health scare, cites overwork

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Bollywood actor Govinda was discharged from a hospital on Wednesday where he was rushed after he experienced disorientation and briefly lost consciousness. While walking out of the Criticare Asia Multispeciality Hospital in Juhu, Mumbai, the actor said, "I am good now. I did excessive workout and was fatigued. Yoga-Pranayam is good, but heavy exercise is tough. I am trying to make my personality even better." Govinda also urged the young generation to practise yoga for better health. The news of the 61-year-old actor's hospitalisation comes within days of his visiting ailing veteran actor Dharmendra, who was hospitalised at Breach Candy Hospital earlier this week. The exact cause of his hospitalisation is still not known. *—AGENCIES*

YSRCP protests privatisation plan of medical colleges

AMRAVATI, 12 NOV

The YSR Congress Party on Wednesday launched statewide protests opposing the Andhra Pradesh government's alleged move to privatise government medical colleges.The protest rallies were held across all 175 Assembly constituencies, with people participating in the one-crore signature campaign against the government decision. The YS Jagan Mohan Reddy-led party alleged that the decision threatens affordable medical education for poor students and deprives the underprivileged of multi-specialty healthcare access under the public-private partnership model. The TDP-led government had earlier announced plans to commission 10 upcoming government medical colleges under the PPP model to ensure faster execution and improved healthcare access. The protest is aimed at addressing long-pending gaps in medical education and public health infrastructure, YSRCP said. *—PTI*

Mumbai cops bust bogus call centre duping US, Canada

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Mumbai Police busted a fake international call centre in Mulund Colony that duped US and Canadian citizens by posing as officials of a US lending firm. Led by Sagar Rajesh Gupta, the gang lured victims with "quick loan" offers through phishing calls and messages, extracting money via gift cards and cryptocurrency. Five suspects, Gupta, Abhishek Singh, Tanmay Dhadsing, Shailesh Shetty and Rohan Ansari, were arrested in Tuesday's raid following a tip-off. Police seized two laptops, 11 mobile phones, two routers and Rs 76,000 cash. A sixth accused, Prashant Rajput of Surat, remains absconding. Officials said the gang operated for months before being tracked. The accused face charges under the BNS and IT Act. *—PTI*

Climate disasters killed 80,000, hit 1.3B since 1995

India ranks 9th globally in climate disaster impact: Report

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

With nearly 430 extreme weather events killing over 80,000 and affecting 1.3 billion since 1995, India now stands ninth worldwide in climate disaster impacts.

From relentless floods and cyclones to scorching heat waves, the country has faced a steady assault from nature, costing almost USD 170 billion and highlighting its vulnerability, Germanwatch reported at COP30 in Belem, Brazil.

The report attributes India's ranking largely to repeated floods, cyclones, droughts, and heat waves intensified by global warming. Landmark events such as the 1998 Gujarat cyclone, 1999 Odisha super cyclone, 2013 Uttarakhand floods, and recent deadly heat waves contributed significantly.

Germanwatch described India's situation as a "continuous threat," noting recurring extremes have steadily eroded development gains and undermined livelihoods. The report highlights India's vulnerability due to its large population and monsoon sensitivity, with extreme events often affecting millions annually. In 2024 alone, heavy monsoon rains and flash floods impacted over eight million people in Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tripura.

The report attributes India's ranking largely to repeated floods, cyclones, droughts, and heat waves intensified by global warming *PHOTO: AI*

Globally, floods and storms were the most damaging events last year, accounting for nearly half of those affected. Between 1995 and 2024, over 9,700 extreme events killed more than 830,000 people worldwide, affected nearly 5.7 billion, and caused USD 4.5 trillion in direct economic losses. Dominica was the most affected, followed by Myanmar, Honduras, Libya, Haiti, Grenada, the Philippines, Nicaragua, India, and the Bahamas.

The report stressed that human-driven climate change amplifies heat waves, storms, and floods. Frequent disasters are becoming the "new normal" in developing nations, requiring urgent adaptation, early warning systems, and protection of vulnerable groups.

Germanwatch urged COP30 leaders to close the climate finance gap, accelerate emission reductions, and strengthen resilience. It also cautioned that incomplete reporting may understate impacts in some Global South countries. *—PTI*

Pedestrians wear masks amid smog and heightened security after a blast near Red Fort metro station, in New Delhi *PHOTO: PTI*

Delhi chokes under 'severe' air quality

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Delhi woke up to a grey haze and burning throats on Wednesday, as air quality sank into the 'severe' category for the second straight day, prompting the Centre to enforce emergency curbs and drawing the Supreme Court's attention to unchecked stubble burning in neighbouring States.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index stood at 414 at 9am, with Wazirpur recording the highest level of 459. Of 39 monitoring stations across the capital, 31 reported 'severe' air quality, far above the WHO's safe limit.

Under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has banned non-essential construction, mining and stone-crushing, and restricted the movement of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles in Delhi-NCR. Primary classes have shifted to hybrid mode following a directive from the Delhi Directorate of Education.

The Supreme Court, while hearing a petition on air pollution, sought responses from the Punjab and Haryana governments on measures to curb stubble burning, a recurring contributor to Delhi's toxic air. The Bench led by CJI BR Gavai will review the matter on 17 November. *—Agencies*

Modi inaugurates 'Kalachakra Empowerment' in Bhutan

THIMPU, 12 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the 'Kalachakra Empowerment' ceremony at the ongoing Global Peace Prayer Festival in Bhutan.

The event was presided over by His Holiness the Je Khenpo. Calling Modi an "accomplished spiritual master", Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said the PM Modi inaugurated and blessed the sacred Kalachakra Empowerment.

Modi met with Bhutan's former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and said he appreciated his extensive efforts towards cementing ties between the countries.

They discussed cooperation in energy, trade, technology and connectivity.

Modi, who is on a two-day visit to the Himalayan country, on 11 November addressed an event at Changlimethang Stadium to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's fourth 'Druk Gyalpo' Wangchuck.

The Prime Minister highlighted the fourth king's transformative tenure that saw the emergence of Bhutan as a "modern nation-state" and as a constitutional democratic monarchy.

PM Narendra Modi with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, in Bhutan *PHOTO: PTI*

- PM Modi met with Bhutan's former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck and said he appreciated his extensive efforts towards cementing ties between the countries

He along with King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck also inaugurated the Punatsanchchhu-II project, a 1,020-MW hydropower project built with Indian assistance. Electricity generated from the project will be supplied to both countries.

Prime Minister Modi on Wednesday departed for New Delhi after concluding his two-day visit. In a special gesture, the Bhutan King accomapanied Modi to the airport for giving farewell. *—PTI*

SC orders release of Delhi lawyer held by STF

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the immediate release of Delhi advocate Vikram Singh, arrested by the Gurugram Police's Special Task Force (STF) in a murder case.

The bench directed his release upon furnishing a Rs 10,000 bail bond and asked the court's registrar (judicial) to convey the order to the Gurugram police commissioner for prompt compliance.

Singh's counsel argued that lawyers practising criminal law now face coercive action for defending accused persons, calling such police conduct "impermissible."

The court also sought responses from the Haryana and Delhi governments and the Bar Council of India.

The bench noted claims that STF officers were in touch with Singh before his arrest.

On 6 November, bar associations across Delhi district courts boycotted work, protesting his alleged false implication.

Singh, enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi since July 2019, was lodged in Faridabad Jail.

His petition contended he was targeted after filing a plea alleging custodial assault on one of his clients. *—PTI*

PUNE JAIN PROPERTY FEUD

Sale annulled, revocation delayed

PUNE, 12 NOV

Although the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner has ordered the cancellation of a Jain trust's controversial property sale in Pune, officials said neither party has approached the Registration and Stamps Department to formalise the cancellation.

Jain spiritual leader Acharya Guptinandi Maharaj, who led protests against the Rs 311-crore sale of the Seth Hirachand Nemchand Jain hostel property in Model Colony to Gokhale Landmarks LLP, warned that the agitation would resume if the deal is not annulled within days. The property, housing a Bhagwan Mahavir temple and a student hostel, was sold earlier this year, with Rs 230 crore already paid and the rest intended for redevelopment. Following strong opposition from students, alumni, seers and the wider Jain community, both parties agreed to cancel the deal.

However, the cancellation deed has not yet been registered. Acharya Guptinandi warned that a senior monk would initiate an indefinite fast outside the Chief Minister's residence if action is not taken. The issue has also drawn political controversy. *—PTI*

DHARMENDRA DISCHARGED FROM HOSPITAL, FAMILY OPTS HOME CARE

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Veteran actor Dharmendra, 89, was discharged from Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital on Wednesday morning and will continue treatment at home, his family and doctor said, urging privacy amid false reports about his health. "He has been discharged and will be recovering at home. Please respect his privacy because he loves you," said son Sunny Deol's representative. Treating physician Dr Pratit Samdani confirmed the family's decision for home care.

Earlier, Dharmendra's wife Hema Malini and daughter Esha Deol criticised media outlets for spreading rumours about his death, calling the coverage "irresponsible" and urging restraint. *—PTI*

Boiler blast kills 2, injures 20 in Gujarat plant

BHARUCH, 12 NOV

At least two workers were killed and 20 injured after a boiler exploded, triggering a major fire at a pharmaceutical factory in Bharuch district, Gujarat, in the early hours of Wednesday, officials said.

The blast occurred around 2.30am at the factory in Saykha GIDC, Bharuch District Collector Gaurang Makwana said. "A powerful boiler explosion inside the factory triggered a massive fire," he added, noting the blaze was later brought under control.

Makwana said the intensity of the explosion caused parts of the factory to collapse. "Most workers managed to escape, but two were trapped and died. Their bodies were recovered from the rubble after the fire was doused. Nearly 20 others sustained minor injuries," he said.

The boiler explosion triggered a major fire at a pharmaceutical factory in Bharuch district, Gujarat *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

- Bharuch Collector said "Most workers managed to escape, but two were trapped and died. Their bodies were recovered from the rubble after the fire was doused"

Some workers reported that one person is still missing, possibly trapped inside. Officials from the Director Industrial Safety and Health (DISH) have arrived to investigate the incident, including checking whether the factory had all necessary licences and permissions. *—PTI*

CRYPTO TRAIL

Rs 58 crore 'digital arrest' racket tied to China, Indonesia

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

The Maharashtra Cyber Department probing a Rs 58-crore "digital arrest" fraud has uncovered an international racket with links to China, Hong Kong and Indonesia, officials said.

In one of India's largest such scams, a Mumbai-based businessman was duped between 19 August and 8 October by cybercriminals posing as CBI and ED officers.

They coerced him into a video call under the pretext of an investigation and siphoned off money through multiple accounts and cryptocurrency channels.

Investigators found the fraudsters operated via commission-based bank accounts, routing funds abroad through crypto wallets.

Officials suspect the network is part of a wider syndicate that has been targeting Indian citizens for over a year through intimidation and manipulation.

Preliminary estimates indicate similar scams may have generated over Rs 2,000 crore nationwide, with funds laundered into cryptocurrency and moved overseas.

"An international network extending to Hong Kong, China and Indonesia has been identified," a cyber official confirmed.

'Digital arrest' scams involve impostors posing as law enforcement officials who threaten victims with arrest or legal action via calls or video chats to extort money.

The Maharashtra Cybercrime Department, the state's nodal cybercrime agency, is coordinating with central and global authorities to trace the fund trail and apprehend the individuals responsible for the crime. *— PTI*

HC relief to KCR, Harish in Kaleshwaram probe

HYDERABAD, 12 NOV

The Telangana High Court on Wednesday extended till January its interim order restraining the state government from taking any adverse action against BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao and others over alleged irregularities in the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh passed the order while hearing petitions filed by KCR, former minister T Harish Rao, former Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar Joshi and senior IAS officer Smita Sabharwal. The court granted the state more time to file its counter affidavits. A judicial commission headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice PC Ghose had held KCR and Harish responsible for irregularities in the project. The report, tabled in the Assembly in August, led CM A Revanth Reddy to call for CBI probe. The court earlier granted interim protection, now extended until the next hearing in January. *— Agencies*

- The Supreme Court earlier granted interim protection, now extended until the next hearing in January 2026

13 held after clash over demolition of dargah in Gujarat

SOMNATH, 12 NOV

At least 13 people were arrested after violence erupted in Gujarat's Somnath district on Monday when residents of Veraval's Prabhas Patan opposed the demolition of a dargah. Tension flared as locals clashed with Mamlatdar office staff, prompting police to use teargas and lathicharge after protesters hurled stones. Order was later restored, and demolition continued.

By Tuesday, debris from 11 razed structures, including houses and the religious site, was cleared.

An FIR named 17 people under relevant sections of BNS and Gujarat Police Act for rioting. Authorities said the area remains under surveillence and more arrests are expected. *—Agencies*

4 GOLD MEDALS AT 93

93-year-old Pani Devi from Bikaner, Rajasthan, won four gold medals at the 23rd Asia Masters Athletics Championship in Chennai. Earlier this year, she bagged three golds in discus throw, shot put, and the 100m race in the 90+ category at the 45th National Masters Athletics Championship in Bengaluru ***PHOTO: PTI***

Red Fort blast leaves trail of grief across India

The powerful explosion near the Red Fort not only shattered Delhi's calm but also tore through homes hundreds of kilometres away, where families are now struggling to come to terms with the sudden loss of their loved ones.

From the quiet lanes of Shravasti and Deoria to the bustling streets of Meerut, Amroha and Shamli, the victims of the deadly car blast were everyday people -- drivers of taxi and e-rickshaw, cosmetic store owners, DTC bus conductors, and all working to support their families, their dreams for better lives.

Among the victims was 32-year-old Dinesh Mishra of Ganeshpur village in Shravasti district, who had been working at a printing press in Delhi's Chawri Bazar to support his wife and three children.

His father, Bhure Mishra, recalled the time Dinesh came home for Diwali.

"He was a hardworking man. He wanted to give his children a good education. We still can't believe he is gone," Bhure said, his voice breaking as neighbours gathered to console the family.

District Magistrate Ashwini Pandey said Dinesh's body was being brought back to Shravasti and would reach by Tuesday evening.

"We have spoken to the family and assured them of all possible assistance," he told PTI.

In Meerut, another family was torn apart not only by grief but also by a painful dispute over where to lay their son to rest.

Mohsin, 32, who had moved to Delhi two years ago to earn a living by driving an e-rickshaw, died in the blast while ferrying passengers.

When his body reached his hometown in Lohia Nagar, an emotional disagreement broke out between his wife, Sultana and his parents. While Sultana wanted him buried in Delhi, where they had settled and their children were studying, his parents insisted he be laid to rest in Meerut.

Neighbours and relatives tried to mediate as both sides broke down in tears.

Family members and relatives mourns the death of the e-rickshaw driver Jumman, who was a victim of the blast near Red Fort, in New Delhi, on Wednesday ***PHOTO: PTI***

"The blast took Mohsin away, but now even the family is divided," said a neighbour. After several hours of tension and police intervention, Sultana finally took the body for burial.

18-year-old Nauman Ansari from Shamli had gone to Delhi to buy cosmetics for his shop when the explosion cut short his life.

"Nauman was killed on the spot while his cousin Aman sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at Lok Nayak Hospital in Delhi," his uncle Furkan told PTI.

Sonu, a relative working near New Delhi Railway Station, said, "Early this morning, I got a call from my uncle saying Nauman was no more and asked me to reach LNJP Hospital."

DTC conductor Ashok Kumar, 34, from Hasanpur in Amroha district, had been supporting his family and parents through his job in Delhi.

He is survived by his wife Sonam, daughters Aarohi and Kavya, aged 8 and 5, and 3-year-old son, Aarav. "Ashok was the sole breadwinner for the family," panchayat member Pintu Bhati said.

Lokesh Kumar Agarwal, 58, a fertiliser dealer from Hasanpur, also lost his life in the incident. He had gone to Delhi to see a relative admitted to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

"Lokesh was a kind-hearted man who helped everyone in need," said his neighbour, Yashpal Singh.

In Deoria, 22-year-old Shiva Jaiswal, who ran a small ready-made garment shop in Bhaluani town, was among those injured in the blast. He had gone to Delhi to buy new stock for the festivals when he was caught in the explosion.

His sister, Purnima Jaiswal, told PTI that Shiva had called earlier that day to say he had finished shopping and would visit their aunt before returning home.

"Then we heard about the blast on TV and his phone went unreachable. Later, we found out he was admitted to LNJP Hospital," she said.

Shiva's mother, Maya Jaiswal, a local BJP Mahila Morcha worker, said she was relieved that her son was alive but shaken by how close the tragedy had come. "He was lucky this time," she said softly.

Another deceased, 22-year-old Pankaj Sahni, drove a taxi in the capital to feed his family in Bihar. His uncle, Ramdev Sahni, said he heard about his death through a phone call from Kotwali Police Station in Delhi.

"He drove a taxi for three years. We were told the back of his head was blown off. The car, a WagonR, was completely damaged," Sahni said while waiting outside the mortuary.

According to Delhi police, 12 people died and over 20 were injured in the blast. *—PTI*

SALAR ساہر

A look at the scandals at the BBC over the years

The BBC's top leader and head of its news division resigned over criticism of how the broadcaster edited US President Donald Trump's speech before some of his supporters stormed the US Capitol on 6 January, 2021.

The scandal leading to Sunday's resignations is hardly the first controversy to hit Britain's publicly funded broadcaster — or to topple one of its leaders.

The editorially independent British Broadcasting Corporation was founded in 1922 to be impartial, act in the public interest and be open, transparent and accountable. While it is widely respected for its global news operation and the entertainment and sports programs it produces, it is frequently the source of criticism for its coverage and has also been ensnared in scandals that happened off the air.

Here's a look at some controversies or scandals that have forced out some of the BBC's leaders:

NOVEMBER 2012: JIMMY SAVILE

George Entwistle resigned as director-general over the Newsnight program's decision not to run a report that entertainer Jimmy Savile, one of its most popular presenters who had died the previous year, was a serial sexual abuser of young women. The broadcaster had also wrongly linked a prominent politician to child sex abuse. Entwistle held the job for less than two months because he failed to explain lapses that damaged public confidence in the BBC.

APRIL 2023: BORIS JOHNSON

BBC Chairman Richard Sharp quit after a report found he failed to disclose a potential conflict of interest over his role in arranging a loan more than two years earlier for Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Sharp, a former banker, was appointed to the BBC post on the government's recommendation weeks after helping arrange the line of credit.

2021: BBC DIRECTOR-GENERAL TIM DAVIE

Davie apologised after a report found that Martin Bashir had used fake bank records to deceive Princess Diana's brother to land his explosive interview with her in 1995. Davie, who was not at the BBC at the time, offered a full and unconditional apology, along with written apologies to then-Prince Charles and his sons, Prince William and Prince Harry.

JULY 2023: HUW EDWARDS

Huw Edwards, the highest-paid news anchor, was suspended with full pay over allegations he paid a teen for sexually explicit photos. He later pleaded guilty and was given a suspended prison sentence for having unrelated images of child sexual abuse on his phone.

JUNE 2025: RAP PUNK DUO BOB VYLAN

The BBC is condemned for livestreaming a performance by rap punk duo Bob Vylan, who led crowds at this year's Glastonbury Festival in chanting "death" to the Israeli military. The BBC's complaints unit later found the broadcast broke editorial guidelines in relation to harm and offence, though it was cleared of breaching impartiality rules or being likely to incite or encourage crime. Davie apologised, saying he deeply regretted that "such offensive and deplorable behaviour" was aired.

OCTOBER 2025: GAZA DOCUMENTARY

Britain's media regulator sanctioned the BBC for a "materially misleading" documentary on the lives of children in Gaza because it failed to disclose that the father of the teen narrator held a position in the Hamas administration.

NOVEMBER 2025: TIM DAVIE & DEBORAH TURNESS QUIT

BBC Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness resigned after the BBC's Panorama documentary program misleadingly spliced together parts of Trump's speech that were delivered over nearly an hour.

It appeared to be one quote in which Trump urged supporters to march with him and "fight like hell," omitting a section where the president said he wanted supporters to demonstrate peacefully. *—PTI*

BBC Director-General Tim Davie and news chief Deborah Turness resigned after the BBC's Panorama documentary misleadingly spliced together parts of US President Donald Trump's speech ***PHOTO: BBC***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Sheikh Hasina's return hinges on 'participatory democracy' restoration

Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister, left the country on 5 August, 2024, after weeks of violent anti-government protests ***PHOTO: PTI***

- Asserting that India has "always been Bangladesh's most important international relationship", Hasina accused interim government under Yunus of jeopardising ties with New Delhi through what she called "foolish and self-defeating" diplomatic missteps.

Ousted former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina has said her return home hinges on the restoration of "participatory democracy", lifting of the ban on the Awami League and the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections.

In an exclusive email interview to PTI from an undisclosed location in India, Hasina also accused the unelected Yunus administration of "endangering ties with India and empowering extremist forces".

Contrasting her foreign policy with that of the current interim government, she said the "broad and deep" relationship between Dhaka and New Delhi should be able to withstand the "foolhardiness of the Yunus interlude".

Hasina thanked the Indian government for providing her refuge and said she was "immensely grateful to India's government and its people for their kind hospitality".

"The most important condition for my return to Bangladesh is the same condition that the Bangladeshi people require: a return to participatory democracy. The interim administration must rescind its ban on the Awami League and allow elections that are free, fair, and inclusive," she told PTI.

Hasina, Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister, left the country on 5 August, 2024, after weeks of violent anti-government protests. The massive agitation forced her resignation and eventual move to India, paving the way for the Yunus-led interim administration.

Asked whether her government mishandled the protests, the 78-year-old leader said, "Obviously, we lost control of the situation and that was regrettable."

"There are many lessons to be learned from these terrible incidents, but in my view, some of the responsibility is also on the so-called student leaders (actually seasoned political firebrands) who whipped up the crowds."

Hasina also rejected reports that she had called for a boycott of the polls, scheduled for February next year, and insisted that any election excluding the Awami League would lack legitimacy.

"Tens of millions of people support us...That would be a huge missed opportunity for our country, which badly needs a government ruling with the people's genuine consent. I hope this foolish ban will be rescinded...Whether in government or in opposition, the Awami League needs to be part of the political conversation in Bangladesh," she said.

Asserting that India has "always been Bangladesh's most important international relationship", Hasina accused the interim government under Yunus of jeopardising ties with New Delhi through what she called "foolish and self-defeating" diplomatic missteps.

"Yunus' hostility to India is foolish and self-defeating in the extreme and reveals him for the weak monarch he is, unelected, chaotic, and dependent upon the support of extremists," she alleged. "I hope he doesn't make too many more diplomatic missteps before exiting the stage."

To Indians worried about the current hostile environment in Bangladesh, Hasina offered reassurance, "The interim government doesn't represent what our countrymen and women think. India is and will remain our nation's most important friend."

Hasina also said she was prepared to stand trial under international supervision "even at the International Criminal Court," but alleged that Yunus has avoided such a process because an impartial tribunal would acquit her.

"I have repeatedly challenged Yunus' government to prosecute me in the International Criminal Court, if it is so confident of its case. Yunus continues to duck this challenge because he knows that the ICC, a genuinely impartial tribunal, would certainly acquit me," she said.

She dismissed Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which has initiated proceedings against her and where prosecutors are seeking the death penalty, as "a kangaroo tribunal" controlled by her political opponents.

"They are trying to neutralise both me and the Awami League as political forces. The fact that they would use the death penalty to suppress their opponents reveals how little respect they have for democracy or due process," she alleged.

According to Hasina, Yunus enjoyed "at least the passive support of some western liberals" who wrongly thought he was one of them.

"Now that they have seen him place radicals into his cabinet, discriminate against minorities, and dismantle the constitution, hopefully they are withdrawing their support," she said. *—PTI*

Can strike inside Afghan, says Pak Defence Minister

Asif blames Afganistan, India for Islamabad terror strike

ISLAMABAD, 12 NOV

Pakistan could carry out strikes inside Afghanistan, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said after a suicide bomb blast killed at least 12 people and injured 36 others outside a court in Islamabad. He slammed the Afghan Taliban regime for allegedly harbouring militants behind the attack.

He said Pakistan was targeted with terrorist attacks in Islamabad and South Waziristan by Afghanistan, the Geo TV had reported. Afghanistan condemned the attack, but Asif rejected the Taliban regime's condemnation, saying that such expressions of regret could not "be taken as proof of sincerity".

"Those sheltered by the Afghan Taliban are repeatedly attacking us," he said. The Defence Minister warned India and Afghanistan against any misadventure, saying Pakistan would "pay them back in the same coin".

The banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has taken responsibility for the attack.

"Judges, lawyers and officials who carried out rulings under Pakistan's un-Islamic laws were targeted," the TTP said in a statement, threatening more attacks until Islamic sharia law was implemented in the country.

Prime Minister Shebaz Sharif has alleged that there were Indian elements involved in the attack, a statement that New Delhi rejected as "baseless" and "unfounded".

However, Pakistan has earlier said that there was an India-Afghanistan nexus aimed at destabilising it.

Asif alleged that India was carrying out attacks on Pakistan "through Afghan territory," and India was funding the Taliban through Indian consulates.

Meanwhile, four terrorists TTP were gunned down in an operation to eliminate those involved in a suicide attack on Cadet College in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. *—Agencies*

A suicide bomber detonated explosives outside a court in Islamabad in Pakistan, killing 12 people and injuring 36 others **PHOTO: PTI**

Lower House gives Munir lifelong control of Army

ISLAMABAD, 12 NOV

Pakistan's National Assembly on Wednesday passed the controversial 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill with a two-thirds majority during a ruckus-marred session, aiming to create a new position of the Chief of Defence Forces, making positions held by Army Chief Asim Munir lifelong and set up a constitutional court.

The controversial bill was presented in the National Assembly by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar on 11 November, a day after the Senate approved the key legislation, despite stiff Opposition protests

The Supreme Court of Pakistan will now focus on civil and criminal cases, while the new Federal Constitutional Court would address constitutional and provincial matters.

Notably, top military leaders would be immune to most criminal prosecution. *—Agencies*

Russian military fire from an undisclosed location towards troops in Ukraine **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia pushes deeper into Ukraine

MOSCOW/KYIV, 12 NOV

Ukrainian forces have withdrawn from at least three villages amid intense shelling by Russians in the Zaporizhia region, officials said.

Armed Forces Chief Oleksandr Syrskii said that the situation has "significantly worsened" while Russian news agency TASS said over Ukraine lost 1,255 troops across all battle lines on Wednesday.

Russia said its forces had pushed deeper into the eastern Ukrainian cities of the strategically important Pokrovsk and Kupiansk on Tuesday. Viral video showed Russian soldiers rolling into Pokrovsk on motorbikes and even on the roofs of battered cars and vans.

- This comes as Russia pushes into the important Pokrovsk, dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk by Russian media. Ukraine said Russia was pushing in under the cover of fog.

Pokrovsk, dubbed "the gateway to Donetsk" would give Moscow a platform to drive north towards the two biggest remaining Ukrainian-controlled cities in the Donetsk region - Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.Ukraine says dense fogprompted Moscow to get increasing numbers into the ruined city. *—Agencies*

Cambodia says Thailand killed civilian at border

PHNOM PENH, 12 NOV

Cambodia's Prime Minister said a villager was killed when shooting broke out Wednesday along the volatile border with Thailand, as the ceasefire appeared to be breaking down. Prime Minister Hun Manet said one civilian was killed and three others wounded when Thai troops opened fire on civilians residing in the area of Prey Chan in Cambodia's northwestern province of Banteay Meanchey. This comes two days after a Thai solder lost a foot to a land mine while patrolling another area of the border. Thailand then announced it was suspending honouring the terms of the ceasefire. Border disputes led to five days of armed conflict in late July that killed dozens before the US and Malaysia brokered ceasefire.. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Russia, China send Myanmar more military choppers

BANGKOK, 12 NOV

Myanmar's military government has commissioned Russian helicopters and Chinese aircraft into its air force, underscoring continued support from Moscow and Beijing despite international sanctions aimed at halting the country's civil war. Photos released by the Tatmadaw show three Russian Mi-38T helicopters and two Chinese Y-8 transport aircraft received during a ceremony in Naypyitaw on 7 November. The aircraft will likely be used to transport troops to conflict zones in mountainous regions, experts said. Myanmar is Russia's first known export customer of the Mi-38T, according to the defence-intelligence company Janes. Notably, this comes ahead of Myanmar's scheduled elections. *—PTI*

UK jails Chinese 'Cryptoqueen' for $6B Bitcoin scam

LONDON, 12 NOV

A UK court on Tuesday sentenced Chinese national Zhimin Qian, 47, to 11 years and eight months in prison after finding her guilty of laundering over 5 billion pounds ($6.6 billion) in Bitcoin from a massive Ponzi scheme that defrauded 128,000 investors in China. Police said Qian, dubbed "Cryptoqueen" had run a pyramid scheme between 2014 and 2017, luring victims to invest their life savings. When Chinese authorities began probing her, she fled to the UK under a false identity and led a lavish life in luxury hotels and a rented London mansion. Officers seized devices containing 61,000 Bitcoin — the UK's largest cryptocurrency haul. Her Malaysian accomplice, Seng Hok Ling, 47, was also jailed for four years and 11 months for laundering the funds. *—PTI*

Press freedom declined in Nepal post Gen Z protests

KATHMANDU, 12 NOV

Nepal recorded 59 incidents of press freedom violations between mid-July and mid-October, with physical attacks and manhandling making up the largest share, according to a report by the Press Council Nepal. While, 34 incidents involved physical assault or manhandling of journalists, 10 pertained to threats and misbehaviour, eight related to professional insecurity, five involving obstruction to work and two linked to policy-level restrictions. Bagmati province registered the highest number of violations at 44, while Madhesh reported six cases, Lumbini four, Koshi three, and Sudurpaschim one. 46 journalists were victimised during the three months. A Press Council Nepal team visited media houses that were targeted during the Gen Z protests. *—PTI*

Thailand extradites scam centre kingpin

BANGKOK, 12 NOV

An appeals court in Thailand on Monday approved the extradition to China of She Zhijiang, an alleged transnational crime kingpin accused by Beijing of having run over 200 illegal online gambling operations. She is also connected to Myanmar's gambling casinos.

The Chinese national is perhaps the most prominent figure among Asia's alleged cybercrime operators to be arrested, though China has arrested and sentenced to death other major scam organisers.

She was arrested in Bangkok in August 2022 on a 2014 arrest warrant from China's police. He is currently in the Thai capital's Klong Prem Central Prison. Monday's ruling calls for him to be sent to China within 90 days.

She became prominent in the region when he developed the Yatai New City project in Myanmar's Shwe Kokko city, a complex near the Thai border that is notorious for cyber-scam activities and human trafficking. *—PTI*

She Zhijiang escorted by police at an airport in Thailand's Samut Prakarn province ahead of being extradited to China **PHOTO:PTI**

Foreign students are good for business: Trump

WASHINGTON, 12 NOV

US President Donald Trump said foreign students were good for business and halving the number of immigrant students would "paralyse the entire system" of American universities as he defended his administration's plan to issue visas to about 600,000 Chinese students.

"You don't want to cut half of the students from all over the world that are coming into our country — destroy our entire university and college system — I don't want to do that," Trump told Fox News amid criticism from his MAGA fanbase who see the move as backtracking on his anti-immigration promises.

"I want to see our school system thrive," he said, adding that foreign students pay more than double compared to local students, generating trillions of dollars in revenue. "It's not that I want them, but I view it as a business."

He added that having students from around the world was "a good thing," saying he wanted to "live peacefully with other countries." His plan would save half of US colleges from going bankrupt, he said. *—Agencies*

As shutdown nears end, SC extends blocking of SNAP payments

The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended an order blocking full SNAP payments, amid signals that the government shutdown could soon end and food aid payments resume. Some people who depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to feed their families have received their full monthly allocations.

UK, Columbia stop sharing intel with US over boat strikes

LONDON/ BOGOTA, 12 NOV

The UK and Colombia have stopped sharing intelligence with the US over Washington's strikes on alleged drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean and Pacific.

The rupture is more significant for US' longtime ally Britain, which retains oversight on several island territories in the Caribbean and has long shared intelligence with the US about the movements of suspect vessels travelling from Latin America, so they can be seized by the US Coast Guard.

The breakage indicates that the UK believes the Donald Trump administration's killing of "narco-terrorists" is illegal, CNN reported.

At least 76 people have been killed by in the 19 attacks on small boats by the US.

Meanwhile, Colombian President Gustavo Petro said his nation's military must immediately end "communications and other agreements with US security agencies" until Washington ceases its attacks on boats—*Agencies*

Israeli settlers attack 2 Palestinian villages in West Bank

JERUSALEM, 12 NOV

Dozens of masked Israeli settlers attacked two Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, torching vehicles and property before clashing with Israeli soldiers, officials said.

Four Israelis were arrested, and four Palestinians were wounded in the violence, which follows a surge in large-scal attacks by settlers amid ongoing tensions.

The United Nations humanitarian office last week reported a record number of such attacks on Palestinians in October, accusing Israeli authorities of failing to curb settler violence. There were over 260 such attacks.

Palestinian officials said settlers targeted dairy trucks, farmland, and Bedouin tents in Beit Lid and Deir Sharaf.

French President Emmanuel Macron condemned the attacks, warning that escalating settler violence threatens West Bank stability. *—PTI*

The United Nations humanitarian office reported the highest number of attacks by Israeli settlers on Palentinians in October **PHOTO: X**

G7 leaders meet amid trade tensions

NIAGARA ON THE LAKE, 12 NOV

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven (G7) nations are meeting in southern Ontario amid rising tensions between the United States and its allies over defense spending, trade, and President Donald Trump's proposed Gaza ceasefire plan.

Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand, hosting the two-day talks in Niagara-on-the-Lake, said relations must "continue across a range of issues" despite trade pressures. She is joined by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and counterparts from Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the EU, along with invited ministers from Australia, India, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico and Ukraine. *—PTI*

Epstein emails say Trump knew about sex abuse

WASHINGTON, 12 NOV

Several private emails of Jeffrey Epstein, the alleged sex offender, claimed that US President Donald Trump, 'knew about the girls' and had 'spent hours at his house', said sources.

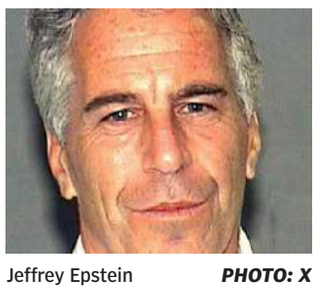
House Democrats on Wednesday, released Epstein's private emails, which claimed that Trump was aware and had previous contact with his victims. In several messages, Epstein appears to mention Trump directly.

Trump has rejected any involvement in the case, claiming he had long parted ways with the convicted sex trafficker.

Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, in their statement, said that they had selected these private emails from the thousands of pages of documents handed over by its committee.

"I want you to realise that the dog that hasn't barked is Trump … spent hours at my house with him, he has never once been mentioned," Epstein told his former partner and co-accused Ghislaine Maxewell in an email dated back to April 2021.

House Democrats asked what else the President was hiding, given this breakthrough. *—Agencies*



Jeffrey Epstein **PHOTO: X**

IRANIAN STAR OF 'THE KITE RUNNER'

'Taste of Cherry' actor Ershadi dies aged 78

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Acclaimed Iranian actor Homayoun Ershadi, best known internationally for his role in 'The Kite Runner' and Abbas Kiarostami's internationally acclaimed 'Taste of Cherry', died at the age of 78.

Iran's state news agency IRNA reported that the actor passed away on Tuesday after a battle with cancer.

News of his death prompted tributes from across the film world, including from his 'Kite Runner' co-star Khalid Abdalla, who remembered him as "a magnificent soul who touched millions of people around the world". The film was based on Khaled Hosseini's bestselling novel

"What an honour to have worked with you, and to be able to recall and cherish your voice and energy and humour," Abdalla posted on Instagram. "It is a very special bond when someone plays your father in film…. My condolences to his family and friends, and all those whose lives he touched."

PHOTO: X

Born in Isfahan, Iran, on 26 March, 1947, Ershadi trained as an architect and lived in Vancouver during the 1980s, working in an architectural firm for over a decade before returning to Iran.

His entry into cinema was pure chance.

According to Deadline, in Tehran, he once stopped at a red light. Kiarostami reportedly tapped on his car window and asked, "I want to make a film. Would you like to be in it?" The film turned out to be 'Taste of Cherry' (1997), which went on to win the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Over the next three decades, Ershadi appeared in more than 90 films, balancing Iranian arthouse projects with international productions. His later international credits included Alejandro Amenábar's 'Agora' (2009), Kathryn Bigelow's 'Zero Dark Thirty' (2012), and Hassan Nazer's 'Utopia' (2015). *—PTI*

PHOTO: AI

Gold rallies Rs 2,000 to Rs 1.27 lakh/10g

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Gold prices rallied by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,27,900 per 10g in the national capital on Wednesday amid firm global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity jumped by Rs 2,000 to Rs 1,27,300 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing of Rs 1,25,300 per 10g.

The yellow metal has added Rs 3,300 per 10g in the last two sessions. Meanwhile, silver prices also skyrocketed by Rs 5,540 to Rs 1,61,300 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Wednesday. In the overseas markets, spot gold was trading flat at USD 4,127.59 an ounce while spot silver rose 0.86 per cent to USD 51.66 per ounce. *—PTI*

Rupee falls by 16P, closes at 88.66 against USD

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

The rupee depreciated 16 paise to close at 88.66 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday, weighed down by the strength of the American currency in the overseas market and elevated crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee traded within a range as renewed optimism over the India-US trade deal and rising hopes that the government shutdown could end soon supported the domestic unit at lower levels. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 88.61 against the USD and touched an intraday high of 88.56 and a low of 88.66 during the day. The domestic unit finally settled for the day at 88.66 (provisional), registering a loss of 16 paise from its previous close. *—PTI*

India Int'l Trade Fair to begin from 14 November

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Foreign exhibitors from 12 countries, including the UAE, China, Iran, South Korea, and Egypt, will participate in the 14-day India International Trade Fair (IITF), which will be held at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi from 14 to 18 November. The fair is a key platform for showcasing the strength of India's industry and the quality of its products. The theme for the fair is 'Ek Bharat Shresth Bharat'. Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are participating as Partner States, whereas Jharkhand will participate as the Focus State, the India Trade Promotion Organisation said. Products to be displayed include electronics, jute and coir, engineering goods, healthcare, agro products and many more. *—PTI*

Starlink to transform India's digital connectivity

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Elon Musk's satellite internet venture, Starlink, is poised to transform digital connectivity in India by providing affordable, high-speed satellite internet to even the most remote regions. During an exclusive interaction with members of the India Global Forum (IGF) delegation at Starlink's Austin headquarters, Musk shared his vision of connecting every corner of the world including India's rural and underserved areas through reliable satellite-based internet. The meeting follows a Letter of Intent (LoI) signed between Starlink and the Government of Maharashtra, making it the first Indian state to partner with the company to deploy satellite internet services. As part of IGF USA 2025, the delegation, led by Manoj Ladwa, is also visiting major global technology firms such as Tesla, Anthropic, and OpenAI to deepen partnerships that position India at the forefront of global innovation. *—ANI*

Retail inflation falls to multi-year low of 0.25% in Oct

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Retail inflation fell to a record low of 0.25 per cent in October following cut in GST rates on nearly 380 items of mass consumption coupled with subdued prices of vegetables, fruits and eggs.

October Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation was lowest in the current series (base year 2012), which captures data since January 2014. The inflation was 1.44 per cent in September and 6.21 per cent in October 2024.

According to the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), the food inflation declined to (-) 5.02 per cent in October.

The decline in headline inflation and food inflation during October 2025 is mainly attributed to full month's impact of decline in GST, favourable base effect and to drop in inflation of oils and fats, vegetables, fruits, egg, footwear, cereals and products, transport and communication, NSO said. The highest inflation was in Kerala (8.56 per cent), followed by J&K (2.95 per cent), Karnataka (2.34 per cent), Punjab (1.81 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (1.29 per cent). It was negative in several states, including Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi & Uttar Pradesh.

WHOLESALE INFLATION

Whole Price Index (WPI) in India has likely turned negative in October 2025 at (-) 1.42 per cent, compared to 0.13 per cent in September 2025, partly due to the base effect and largely driven by the fall in food prices, according to an assessment made by Union Bank of India. *—Agencies*

Tata Motors CV makes mkt debut of 28% after demerger

On BSE, shares were up by 26%, mkt valuation stood at Rs 1.22L

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Shares of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles made a strong market debut on Wednesday, listing with a premium of over 28 per cent on the NSE.

The listing of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles business comes after the Tata Motors demerger was completed and the company was split into two independent listed entities.

The stock of Tata Motors' commercial vehicles arm opened at Rs 335, up 28.48 per cent from its discovered price on the NSE.

On the BSE, it listed at Rs 330.25, up 26.09 per cent.

The company's market valuation stood at Rs 1,22,345.46 crore on the NSE.

Tata Motors' demerger took effect from 1 October. In 2024, Tata Motors announced the demerger of its businesses into two separate entities.

Tata Motors' demerger took effect from 1 October & the company was renamed Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd *PHOTO: PTI*

As part of the demerger, the commercial vehicles business and related investments were moved into one company, while the passenger vehicles (PV) business, including PV, electric vehicles, Jaguar Land Rover and related investments, formed other entity.

The company was renamed Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd following the split.

On the operational front, Tata Motors reported a 10 per cent rise in total commercial vehicle sales at 37,530 units in October 2025, compared with 34,259 units a year earlier.

Its domestic sales grew 7 per cent to 35,108 units, while international business surged 56 per cent to 2,422 units, the company said.

Additionally, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Wednesday termed the listing of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles a "defining moment" in the company's journey as well as for the automotive industry.

At the listing ceremony of Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles at BSE, Chandrasekaran said, "It is truly a momentous occasion, a very important milestone... a defining moment... for the combined Tata Motors' journey, if I may say so, also for the automotive industry." *—PTI*

Reliance Infrastructure Q2 net dips to Rs 1,911 crore

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Reliance Infrastructure has reported a 50 per cent dip in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,911.19 crore in the September quarter, impacted by reduced income, and the company also looks to raise USD 600 million to fund its growth plans.

It had clocked a net profit of Rs 4,082.53 crore in the second quarter of 2024.

The company saw its total income falling to Rs 6,309.48 crore, from Rs 7,345.96 crore in the July-September of FY25.

Reliance Infrastructure trimmed expenses to Rs 5,991.49 crore, from Rs 6,450.38 crore in the year-ago period.

The company said its "board approved seeking enabling resolution from shareholders for raising USD 600 million through issue of foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs) to fund growth."

The company's consolidated net worth increased to Rs 16,921 crore, as on September 30, 2025, up 14 per cent from Rs 14,855 crore as on June 30, 2025.

Bank debt on a standalone basis was at 'zero'.

During Q2, the company's consolidated assets stood at Rs 69,708.76 crore as on September 30, 2025, with a strong retail shareholding family of over 7 lakh investors.

Over 46,224 new consumers were added to the Delhi Discom in Q2 FY26, bringing the total consumer base to 53.24 lakh.

Reliance Infrastructure Ltd develops projects through various special purpose vehicles across several high-growth sectors, including power, roads and metro rail and the defence sector. *—PTI*

ASIAN PAINTS Q2 PROFIT RISES BY 47%

Asian Paints Ltd reported a 46.8 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,018.23 crore for FY26 September quarter, compared with Rs 693.66 crore last year. Revenue from sales grew 6.38 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8,513.70 crore, while total income, including other sources, rose 6.44 per cent to Rs 8,729.91 crore. Total expenses rose 4 per cent to Rs 7,376.69 crore. On a standalone basis, which reflects domestic operations, sales revenue was up 5.75 per cent at Rs 7,335.85 crore. Shares of Asian Paints were trading at Rs 2,662.90 on the BSE. *—PTI*

SPICEJET WIDENS Q2 NET LOSS TO RS 635 CRORE

SpiceJet on Wednesday reported widening of net loss to Rs 635.42 crore in September quarter FY26 as multiple factors, including foreign exchange loss, additional expenses related to grounded as well as reinducted aircraft and airspace curbs, hit the budget carrier's bottom line. The airline, which had faced multiple headwinds, had recorded a net loss of Rs 447.54 crore in the year-ago period and expects positive financial performance in the second half of the current financial year. Excluding foreign exchange loss, it had a net loss of Rs 447.70 crore in the second quarter of the current fiscal, higher than Rs 424.26 crore reported in the same period a year ago, it said. Shares of the carrier rose 4.17 per cent to close at Rs 35.48 on the BSE. *—PTI*

Vi wants solution on ₹78,500 crore AGR dues: CEO

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Debt-ridden Vodafone Idea is working closely with the government and expects to come up with the best, long-term solution to its Rs 78,500 crore adjusted gross revenue dues.

Vodafone Idea CEO Abhijit Kishore said the company is engaging multiple sources, including banks and non-banking finance companies, for fundraising, which also depends on the resolution of the AGR matter for long-term funding.

The company, during the quarter, received a favourable order from the Supreme Court that allowed the government to reconsider and take an appropriate decision with reference to the additional AGR demand raised for the period up to the financial year 2016-2017 and comprehensively reassessing and reconciling all AGR (adjusted gross revenue) dues, including interest and penalty.

VIL (Vodafone Idea Ltd) incurred a loss of Rs 12,132 crore in the first half of the current fiscal, and its net worth stood at negative Rs 82,460 crore as on 30 September. *—PTI*

ISSUE PRICE OF RS 100

Groww lists at 31% premium on market debut

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Shares of Billionbrains Garage Ventures, the parent company of stock broking firm Groww, on Wednesday made a remarkable debut, closing with a premium of nearly 31 per cent against the issue price of Rs 100. The stock began trading at Rs 114, up 14 per cent from the issue price on the BSE. Later, it jumped 30.94 per cent to close at Rs 130.94 apiece.

On the NSE, the shares listed at Rs 112 apiece, a premium of 12 per cent. Finally, it ended 28.85 per cent higher at Rs 128.85 apiece on the exchange.

During the session, the stock appreciated by 34.4 per cent each to Rs 134.40 and Rs 134.34 apiece, on the NSE and BSE, respectively.

At the end of the trading session, the company's market valuation stood at Rs 79,546.79 crore on the NSE. In terms of volume, 52.38 crore equity shares were traded on the NSE while 6.24 crore shares exchanged hands on the BSE, during the day.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 595.19 points, or 0.71 per cent, to settle at 84,466.51. The broader NSE Nifty climbed 180.85 points, or 0.70 per cent, to close at 25,875.80.

The firm has fixed a price band of Rs 95-100 per share for its IPO.. *—PTI*

PhysicsWallah IPO subscribed 13% on Day 2

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The initial public offering of edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah received a lukewarm response from investors by garnering only 13 per cent subscription, a day before it closes on Thursday. The bid will close on 13 November.

The Rs 3,480-crore initial share sale received bids for 2,38,20,601 shares against 18,62,04,143 shares on offer, according to the NSE data.

The portion for retail individual investors received 58 per cent subscription, while the quota for non-institutional investors was subscribed 6 per cent.

However, qualified institutional buyers bid for just 6,302 shares out of 10,11,55,340 on offer. *—PTI*

Sensex surges by 595 pts, Nifty nears 25,875 level

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

Stock market benchmarks Sensex and Nifty stayed firm for the third consecutive day and ended with sharp gains on Wednesday, buoyed by massive buying in IT and consumer durables shares amid a rally in global equities markets.

Traders said optimism over the anticipated resolution of the US government shutdown and growing expectations of interest rate cuts by the Federal Reserve also bolstered the sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rallied 595.19 points, or 0.71 per cent, to settle at 84,466.51. It gained up to 780.69 points or 0.93 per cent to hit an intraday high of 84,652.01.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 180.85 points, or 0.70 per cent, to close at 25,875.80. During the session, it jumped 239.6 points or 0.93 per cent to hit a high of 25,934.55.

From the Sensex pack, Asian Paints, Tech Mahindra, Tata Consultancy Services, Bajaj Finserv, Adani Ports, HCL Technologies, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, Trent, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Eternal, Titan and Bajaj Finance were the gainers.

On the other hand, Tata Steel, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, Bharat Electronics, Kotak Mahindra Bank and PowerGrid were the laggards.

The BSE largecap soared 0.63 per cent. Midcap gauge went up by 0.44 per cent while smallcap closed 0.76 per cent higher.

Among sectoral indices, Focused IT climbed by 1.97 per cent, IT by 1.95 per cent, Services by 1.13 per cent, Teck 1.77 per cent, Consumer Durables by 1.86 per cent, Auto by 1.15 per cent, Telecommunication by 1.23 per cent, Consumer Discretionary by 1.09 per cent, Energy by 0.85 per cent, and Healthcare by 0.76 per cent.

A total of 2,509 stocks advanced while 1,701 declined and 163 remained unchanged on the BSE. *—PTI*

600 PARAMOUNT EMPLOYEES QUIT OVER 5-DAY WORK FROM OFFICE

WASHINGTON, 12 NOV

Paramount lost hundreds of employees ahead of its plans to bring staffers back to the office in person five days a week, a presentation for company shareholders presented this week revealed.

The directive, which will cover all departments at the sprawling media conglomerate, is scheduled to begin in January, 2026 and is aimed at "unlocking Paramount's full potential and create a more connected, agile organization," the company said.

Employees of the company in Los Angeles and New York — at the vice president level and below were "offered the option of a voluntary severance package if they are unable or unwilling to work from the office full time." Approximately 600 employees chose the severance package over returning, it said.

The **David Ellison**-led media giant recently announced major staff reductions after its merger with entertainment company Skydance.

Paramount has incorporated several changes to the leadership at CBS News and cancelled 'The Late Show', drawing sharp criticism with several saying that Ellison and his family are trying to win the favour of US President Donald Trump.

Trump, who Paramount recently paid $16 million to settle a lawsuit he brought against "60 Minutes" out of court, has praised Ellison's efforts. *—Agencies*

BENGALURU AT 7%

'Mumbai leads India's data centre hub with 53% shares'

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

Mumbai has emerged as India's top data centre hub, accounting for 53 per cent of the country's total data centre capacity of about 1,530 megawatts (MW) as of September 2025, according to a report by CBRE. The city's dominance is linked to its proximity to global internet exchange points and submarine cable landing stations that connect India with the rest of the world.

The report, titled 'India's Data Centre Market in a New Era', stated that other major contributors include Chennai with 20 per cent, Delhi-NCR with 10 per cent, and Bengaluru with 7 per cent of the total capacity. Together, these four cities account for nearly 90 per cent of India's data centre infrastructure.

The country's data centre capacity crossed the 1.5-gigawatt mark for the first time between January and September 2025. Around 260 MW of new supply was added during this period, driven by rapid digitalisation, supportive government policies, and increasing corporate investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman and CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said India's data centre market has grown sharply in the last few years.

India has also become one of the most cost-competitive data centre destinations globally, helped by lower construction and electricity costs compared to markets like Singapore, China, and Japan. It currently accounts for around 16 per cent of the world's AI workforce, with over 600,000 professionals, a number expected to double by 2027. *—ANI*

Anti-dumping probe launched by India on Chinese rubber

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

The Commerce Ministry's investigation arm, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), has launched an anti-dumping investigation into imports of a rubber from China used mainly in the automobile industry.

The probe follows a complaint by domestic producer Reliance Sibur Elastomers, which alleged that Chinese exporters are dumping Halo Isobutene & Isoprene Rubber in the Indian market at unfairly low prices, harming local manufacturers. Consequently, the authority has decided to initiate a formal prob to determine the extent of dumping, injury, and link between the two. If the probe confirms material injury, DGTR may recommend the imposition of anti-dumping duties. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Anahat loses in China; Rathika reaches Bondi Open semis

SHANGHAI, 12 NOV

Talented Indian squash player Anahat Singh took the lead against Egyptian eighth seed and world No. 15 Sana Ibrahim but could not sustain the momentum, losing the round of 16 match at the China Open in Shanghai on Wednesday. The Indian went down 11-5, 6-11, 4-1,1, 7-11 at the PSA Gold event. Meanwhile, at the Bondi Open PSA Challenger event in Sydney, top seed Rathika Suthanthira Seelan progressed to the semifinals. She began her campaign by getting the better of compatriot Aaradhana Kasturiraj 11-8 11-3 11-5 and followed that up with a 11-7 11-3 11-3 win over Thailand's Anantana Prasertratanakul in the quarterfinals. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Jude is facing a fight to get back into England team

LONDON, 12 NOV

Jude Bellingham might have to wait to get back in the England team, with coach Thomas Tuchel saying on Wednesday he is in no rush to change his system to accommodate the return of the Real Madrid star. Since Bellingham last played for England in a 3-1 loss to Senegal in a friendly in June, Morgan Rogers has been installed in the No. 10 role and starred in recent 5-0 wins over Serbia and Latvia that helped to clinch a spot in next year's World Cup. Bellingham is back in the squad after fully recovering from shoulder surgery, and Tuchel sees him as a No. 10, placing him in direct competition with Rogers. Tuchel said at a news conference ahead of England's home game against Serbia in World Cup qualifying on Thursday.—*PTI*

Asian archery c'ships: Deepshikha and Verma in final

DHAKA, 12 NOV

The Indian team of Deepshikha and Abhishek Verma reached the compound mixed team final to assure the country of another medal at the Asian archery championships in Dhaka on Wednesday. If it has been included in Los Angeles 2028, the second-seeded Indian duo, a mix of youth and experience, showed consistency to get past UAE 158-144, Vietnam 159-155, and Kazakhstan 156-153 to set up a summit clash with Bangladesh. The second-seeded recurve mixed pair of Yashdeep Bhoge and Anshika Kumari performed well before losing 0-6 to Chinese Taipei in the semifinals.—*PTI*

Suicide bombing: Security beefed up for Sri Lanka team

RAWALPINDI, 12 NOV

Security has been beefed up for the visiting Sri Lankan cricket team following terror attacks in Islamabad and Wana, with the island nation's High Commissioner also given assurance that the touring players are being treated as "state guests". On Tuesday, a suicide bomber detonated himself outside a judicial complex in Islamabad, killing 12 people and injuring scores, while in Northern Pakistan's Wana area, a terror attack on the Wana Cadet College was foiled by security forces, and around 300 students were safely evacuated. The security issue was taken up at a meeting between the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Admiral (retired) Fred Seneviratne.—*PTI*

Jurel to play in place of Nitish in opening Test vs SA

Countering Bumrah before spinners will be key for SA: Smith

KOLKATA, 12 NOV

In-form wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel will play the opening Test against South Africa here, and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy is set to be the one who makes way for him in the line-up, India's assistant coach Ryan Ten Doeschate said on Wednesday.

Graeme Smith PHOTO: PTI

Dhruv Jurel PHOTO: PTI

The 24-year-old Jurel, who has played seven Tests so far, has struck four centuries in his last five first-class matches, including twin hundreds against South Africa 'A' in Bengaluru last week.

With first-choice wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant back after recovering from a foot fracture he suffered during the fourth Test against England in Manchester in July, there were questions over whether the management would find room for Jurel. But Ten Doeschate said they were "clear" about their combination ahead of the opening Test at the Eden Gardens beginning Friday.

Assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate said that he 'would be very surprised' if India doesn't field both its wicketkeeper-batters, Rishabh Pant and Dhruv Jurel, in the playing XI against South Africa in the Test series opener in Kolkata, starting on Friday.

India's captain Shubman Gill and South Africa's captain Temba Bavuma during a training session on Wednesday PHOTO: PTI

Since mid-September 2025, his first-class form has been remarkable with scores of 140, 56, 125, 44, 132 not out and 127 not out across five matches (including Ranji, Test and 'A' games). His first-class average has surged from 47.34 to 58.00, making it impossible to overlook him.

"Given the way Dhruv (Jurel) has gone in the last six months, and scoring two hundreds in Bangalore last week, he is certain to play this week," Ten Doeschate added.

South Africa will have to find a way to deal with the lethal opening spells of India's lead pacer Jasprit Bumrah before the spinners come into play in the two-Test series beginning on Friday, said **Graeme Smith** on Wednesday.

Smith said neither team would want to lose wickets to pacers before spin comes into play.

"I think it's never at the forefront of people's conversation when you play cricket in the subcontinent, but I think the South African team will definitely be preparing for how they're going to handle spin," SA20 league commissioner Smith told the media here.

"But getting off to a solid start, having a top three that can lay a platform for you, there's nothing worse than if you go two or three down and then the spinners come on and you're against the game already. —*PTI*

BCCI ORDER

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma told to play domestic cricket

MUMBAI, 12 NOV

As speculation grows over Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's ODI future, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has reportedly mandated domestic cricket participation for the veteran duo, if they are to be considered for selection in the national team.

Having retired from Tests and T20Is, Rohit and Kohli remain active cricketers only in the 50-over format.

Hence, their match fitness for selection has become a big subject of debate. Ahead of the squad selection for the South Africa ODI series, the subject of the duo's potential participation in the Vijay Hazare Trophy has intensified.

According to a report in the Indian Express, Rohit has already informed the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) that he will be available to play in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Kohli, on the other hand, is yet to clear the status of his availability for the domestic one-day tournament. Former India captain Rohit Sharma has not yet communicated his availability for the Vijay Hazare Trophy, the country's premier 50-over competition, to the Mumbai Cricket Association.

The Vijay Hazare Trophy will be held in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Jaipur, and Bengaluru from December 25 to January 1,8 with the knockout matches to be played at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.A senior MCA official confirmed to PTI that they have not received any communication from the India ODI opener. —*PTI*

Jerlin named India's flagbearer for Tokyo Deaflympics

TOKYO, 12 NOV

Three-time gold medallist Jerlin Jayaratchagan will be India's flagbearer at the Deaflympics, beginning in Tokyo from November 15.

India is sending a record 111-member contingent to the Deaflympics.

The contingent was given a warm sendoff by Secretary (sports), Hari Ranjan Rao, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Wednesday. The first batch of Indians will leave for Tokyo on Thursday.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, in a message to the Indian contingent, said: "India's rapid progress in global events for special athletes is something to be proud of. As part of our endeavour to promote inclusivity and foster healthy outreach through sports, we are extremely happy to send the biggest-ever Indian squad to the Deaflympics."

"Every year our medal count has been increasing, and I am very sure that we will even do better than Brazil."

India will take part in 11 disciplines – athletics, badminton, golf, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, wrestling, and tennis.

The Deaflympics are conducted by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf (ICSD). The Deaflympics are held under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee. "Being chosen as the flagbearer is a moment of great pride and emotion for me. —*PTI*

CHESS WORLD CUP

Arjun Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa move into Round 4 tiebreaks

PANAJI, 12 NOV

GM Arjun Erigaisi and GM R Praggnanandhaa played out solid draws, while P Harikrishna saved the day after finding himself in a difficult position to head into a tiebreak in the fourth round of the 2025 FIDE World Cup 2025 in Goa on Wednesday.

Arjun accepted a draw after 36 moves against the experienced GM Peter Leko of Hungary with white pieces, Praggnanandhaa split the point after 30 moves against GM Daniil Dubov.

Harikrishna also drew after 38 moves. GM Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara, who won with black pieces on Tuesday, became the first player to advance to the round of 16 after he went for a threefold repetition and took a draw against GM Alexey Sarana in 20 moves.

He will now face the winner of the match between GM P Harikrishna and GM Nils Grandelius of Sweden. Also advancing to the next round was two-time champion GM Levon Aronian after he drew the second game in 35 moves with black against GM Radoslaw Wojtaszek.

Among the five Indians in fray in the fourth round, all eyes were on Arjun and Praggnanandhaa on the top boards.

Arjun opted for the Nimzo Indian opening with white against Leko and looked like he was prepared quite well as he gained time on the clock after 16 moves. —*PTI*

ISSF World C'hips: Ashi, Anjum miss out on 50m 3P final

CAIRO, 12 NOV

Ashi Chouksey and Anjum Moudgil missed out on a place in the final of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) after finishing 15th and 17th in qualification during the ISSF World Championships at the Olympic Shooting Range in Cairo, Egypt.

Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad became the world champion, Switzerland's 17-year-old Emely Jaeggi won the silver, and Seonaid Mcintosh of Great Britain won the bronze.

India maintained second position behind China in the medal tally with three gold, five silver, and three bronze medals. China has eight golds and a total of 15 medals to remain atop the standings. —*PTI*

DP World India C'ship to return next season

The DP World India Golf Championships will be back next year with plans to become a regular fixture on the Tour calendar. McIlroy and another top star, Tommy Fleetwood, the eventual winner, hogged the limelight during the event in Delhi last month. McIlroy, in whose name the Tour has instituted a new award called the 'Rory McIlroy Award', to be given to the best-performing DP World Tour member across the four Major Championships, gushed about the DP World India Championship. "I enjoyed it, I had a great time in India. I don't know if I have one lasting memory. I guess I'll remember not hitting the driver for four days. But the hospitality, the welcome, the generosity of the people there, it was absolutely amazing," he said. Talking of the highlight of the week, he paused and said, "I would say the Diwali party on Friday night and being able to spend some time with Sachin Tendulkar, that was a pretty big highlight."

McIlroy PHOTO: PTI

BASKETBALL HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE UNVEILED

BENGALURU, 12 NOV

Aimed at developing a fresh line of players, the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) and ACG Sports Pvt Ltd on Wednesday unveiled a residential High Performance Centre in Bengaluru as a precursor to the inaugural season of the India Basketball League (IBL).

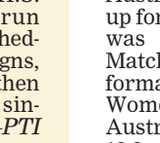
The HPC, located at the Lakshyan Academy, has three FIBA-standard courts, complemented by a state-of-the-art strength-and-conditioning gymnasium and a world-standard 25-metre swimming pool.

The HPC's integrated approach to high-performance basketball development will bring together a sports health department equipped with advanced biomechanics analysis technology, alongside dedicated nutrition, physiotherapy, and mental conditioning capabilities all under one roof to ensure holistic athlete development. "The India Basketball League represents years of vision becoming reality. This is about creating national heroes and building a basketball culture that resonates across India," said Aadhav Arjuna, President, BFI."Basketball is an Olympic discipline, which gives our efforts even greater meaning. With the HPC operational and delivered by ACG in just six months, and the league launching next year, we're setting new standards for Indian sport and opening the doors for generations to come." —*PTI*

Mahmudul 169* puts B'desh in a strong position

SYLHET, 12 NOV

Mahmudul Hasan Joy's career-best 169* headlined Bangladesh's dominance on the second day of the Sylhet Test.



The home side went to stumps on 338 for 1, leading Ireland by 52 runs after the visitors were bowled out for 286 on the second morning.Mahmudul's dominant display made the Irish bowlers look increasingly clueless as the day went on.

Mahmudul shared a 168-run opening stand with Shadman Islam, who made 80 off 104 balls with nine fours and a six. Mahmudul followed it up with 170 runs for the unbroken second-wicket stand with Mominul Haque.

Mominul was unbeaten on 80 runs, having struck five fours and two sixes in his 124-ball stay.But it was Mahmudul's strokeplay that particularly caught the eye.

Bangladesh 338 for 1 (Mahmudul 169*, Mominul 80*, Shadman 80) lead Ireland 286 (Stirling 60, Carmichael 59, Mehidy 3-50) by 52 runs. —*PTI*

JAPAN MASTERS 2025

Sen through to second round, Kiran knocked out

KUMAMOTO, 12 NOV

India's Lakshya Sen started his Japan Masters 2025 campaign strongly, advancing to the second round of the BWF World Tour Super 500 event with a straight-games victory over Japan's Koki Watanabe in Kumamoto City on Wednesday.

The seventh seed and world No. 15 appeared in complete control throughout the 39-minute match, defeating the local favourite and world No. 26 Watanabe 21-12, 21-16. Showing sharp court coverage and deft net play, Lakshya hardly allowed his opponent to settle into rhythm.

India's Lakshya Sen PHOTO: PTI

The 23-year-old Indian will next face the winner of the match between Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh and Canada's Victor Lai, a World Championships bronze medallist, for a place in the quarterfinals.While Lakshya impressed, it was a disappointing day for other Indian shuttlers in the men's singles draw. Kiran George bowed out after losing 20-22, 10-21 to Malaysia's Jing Hong Kok despite a spirited start in the first game.

Rising star Ayush Shetty too faced a tough challenge, going down 16-21, 11-21 to fourth-seeded Japanese Kodai Naraoka, who dominated the rallies with superior pace and precision.

Later in the day, H.S. Prannoy and Tharun Mannepalli were also scheduled to open their campaigns, as India looked to strengthen its presence in the men's singles bracket. —*PTI*

Blind T20 WC: India crushes Aus by 209 runs

NEW DELHI, 12 NOV

India continued their dominant run, defeating Australia by 209 runs in a Women's Blind T20 World Cup match.

Batting first, India posted 292 for 4 with captain Deepika TC (B3) scoring 91 off 58 balls, while Phula Saren (B3) added a rapid-fire 54 not out off 22 balls.Australia also gave away 52 runs in extras and another 26 runs in penalties. Australia's batting then folded up for 57 in 19.3 overs. Deepika was named 'Player of the Match' for her all-round performance.Brief scores: India Women 292/4 in 20 overs. Australia Women: 57 all out in 19.3 overs. —*PTI*